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The Ag Report is produced by Aaron Gabriel

Topics in this issue:
Grain Storage
Weeds
Frost Seeding

Capital Area Ag Report
February 4, 2020

Announcements

February 7, 2020, 9:30 am —3:45 pm —6th Annual Hudson Valley Value-Added Grain School—at the Pegasus Restaurant, 10885 Rte 9W, Coxsackie, NY. Ancient Grains (spelt, emmer, einkorn) and Heritage Corn. Speakers will cover their importance, production, weed control, marketing, and more. ($40) Register by February 5th. Info and registration at http://ulster.cce.cornell.edu/grainschool2020

March 10, 2020 - CAAHP's Pesticide Recertification Day at the Hilton Garden Inn, 235 Hoosick St., Troy, NY (new location!) Pesticide Recertification Day is designed to assist pesticide applicators in attaining DEC pesticide credits needed to keep their licenses up to date. The fees are $100.00 per person to attend all day; morning or afternoon classes only will be $85.00 per person. Payment for this event is required in advance. Lunch is included in all fees and is served at 12:00 noon. Registration for Pesticide Recertification Day is mandatory, as we must have your pesticide applicator's license number in advance so we can prepare your certification. It is also required that you present your pesticide license at the event and sign in on Cornell and DEC sign-in sheets. For more information, call Lindsey Christianson at (518)429-8608. REGISTRATION OPENS Feb. 10th on our blog. Recertification credits requested for CORE (3) and 3 credits for categories 1A, 21, 22, and 23, and other categories as well.

March 31, 2020—1pm to 4 pm —On-Farm Grain Storage Management Meeting—at Hewitt Farms, 37 Hewitt Ln, Troy. Grain storage management and managing temperature going into the spring and summer. Also, "Dicamba Training" required for applicators using dicamba-resistant soybeans. ***$10 Registration to open soon on our blog,*** http://blogs.cornell.edu/capitalareaagandhortprogram/

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CCE—Central NY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crop Team meetings. Locations and time vary. Information at https://cnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/events.php:

- **Corn Day (in Cooperstown, Feb 11th) I can drive the CCE van if you want a ride (starting in southern Washington County, going through Albany, down Rte 88. Contact Aaron Gabriel, adg12@cornell.edu, 518-380-1496.) Feb 7th registration deadline.**
- **Dairy Day—**March 10th in Cooperstown

FYI

"Open-Pollinated Corn Varieties—A Descriptive Catalog" produced by Margaret Smith, Cornell Univ., has great information on 68 open-pollinated and heritage corn varieties. Go to the crop variety trials blog (https://blogs.cornell.edu/varietytrials/) at the bottom under "Also of Interest", or the direct link: https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.cornell.edu/dist/5/8858/files/2020/02/SARE-OP-Catalog.pdf

"What's Cropping Up?" has several articles including.

- New problem weeds in NY – waterhemp and Palmer amaranth
- Biological Control of Corn Rootworm with Persistent Entomopathogenic Nematodes: An opportunity to try them on your farm.
- Organic compared to Conventional Crop Rotations lost $ during the Transition but made more $ in the 2 years after the Transition and in the total 4 Years of the Study
- New York Phosphorus Index 2.0

The current issue of "What's Cropping Up?" is at http://blogs.cornell.edu/whatscroppingup/ and archived articles are at https://scs.cals.cornell.edu/extension-outreach/whats-cropping-up/archives/

The NYS Hemp Exchange and Grower News is at http://www.nyhempexchange.org/

Videos Offer Insight on Organic Row Crop Cultivation

The Organic Grain Resource and Information Network (OGRAIN) has posted a series of nine videos, "The Art and Science of Cultivation." In these videos, experienced organic farmer and consultant Gary McDonald discusses equipment, techniques, and adjustments for successful row-crop cultivation. In videos ranging from two to 12 minutes, McDonald addresses the tractor, the cultivator, cultivation timing, and more.

The United Nations has designated 2020 as the **"International Year of Plant Health"**, https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/ppq-program-overview/plant-protection-today/articles/iyph

The January issue of **"Dairy Market Watch"** is at https://nydairyadmin.cce.cornell.edu/uploads/doc_708.pdf

A recent Farm Journal article announced that the **USDA is now publishing land rental rates for the Northeast,** https://www.farmprogress.com/land-management/online-tool-allows-you-check-cash-rental-rates-northeast?NL=FP-001&Issue=FP-001_20200124_FP-001_457&sfvc4enews=42&cl=article_4_b&utm_rid=CPG02000002564878&utm_campaign=4

5993&utm_medium=email&elq2=fbe2f21e431d4cf29b8e0712b3247a0d . I tried using the website but it is tricky. Find it at https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/ . (Read the Farm Journal article first.)

The **Cornell Guide for Integrated Field Crop Management** can be purchased (book and/or online access) from the Cornell Store, https://www.cornellstore.com/books/cornell-cooperative-ext-pmep-guidelines

Agronomy Notes

Grain Storage It is important to monitor stored grain through the winter. If there were any little moist or hot spots last month, they may be much bigger this month. Grain is a good insulator, so a bad spot a couple feet inside the grain mass will be protected from the winter cold, and can just get worse. Look for condensation on bin roofs, smell the air in the bin, take temperatures throughout the grain mass (temperature cables, compost thermometer, grain thermometer attached to several feet of threaded rod).

The average temperature during January in Albany, was 32^{O} F. (Temperature data from the NEWA—Network for Environment and Weather Applications, http://newa.cornell.edu/ - is fairly easy to find and use.) To prevent condensation, the grain mass should be within 15^{O} F of the average monthly temperature. So, the grain right now should be less than 47^{O} F.

When aeration is needed, wait for air temperatures to be within 15^{O} F of the grain temperature to avoid condensation. As spring approaches, aeration may be needed if grain moisture is above what it should be for long term storage.

Jimson weed I have had a few questions on Jimson weed, an annual in the nightshade plant family. It is one of our most poisonous weeds. One reference noted that a half teaspoon of the seed can be lethal to a human. All parts of the plant are poisonous. It is bitter, so animals may not graze it unless they are hungry. However, a thick patch in a field chopped for silage can be a concern, especially if it has seed. The seeds are the most toxic part. It is a warm season plant, so if it is a problem, it is probably escaping herbicide applications. Many residual and post-emergent herbicides will kill it. To manage it, rotate crops so that it is exposed to herbicides. Mow it (especially along fence lines) often to prevent it from going to seed or getting big. Since it is a big and vigorous plant, control it when it is small. Once it gets several leaves, it will be more difficult to control. (http://poisonousplants.ansci.cornell.edu/jimsonweed/jimsonweed.html)

Pokeweed is another poisonous plant (all parts). It is a perennial. Gloves should be worn is you are hand pulling many plants. To kill established plants, use a shovel to cut below the crown. Like jimsonweed, many herbicides will kill it and it can be controlled with crop rotation and managing it while it is young. https://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/weedguide/single_weed.php?id=112

Frost seeding is a simple technique that works sometimes for clovers mostly and to a lesser extent ryegrass (annual, Italian, or perennial). It is a way to seed in **bare** areas in a pasture or hay field. Trying to add legumes to a healthy stand of grass, most likely will not work. The clover seedlings cannot compete with a healthy stand of grass. If the situation is right (bare spots) and the conditions are good (no snow cover, several freeze/thaw cycles), frost seeding can work. Seed can be broadcast at any time between now and the end of March, onto bare ground. Do not make ruts with machinery (or your feet) into squish ground. A slightly heavier seeding rate is used, compared to a drilled rate into prepared ground. Here is a factsheet from Univ. of Wisconsin, https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/forage/frost-seeding-legumes-and-grasses-into-established-pastures/ and a video from Univ. of Maine, https://video.maine.edu/media/How+to+Frost+Seed/1_zw5wlog4/89966431 .

Weeds We have to pay more attention to weeds. There are very problematic weeds moving into our area (waterhemp, palmer amaranth—although I have not yet seen any palmer, and horseweed has been here). Machinery can move weed seed from the Midwest to New York, and from field to field.

- **Did you buy any machinery this winter??** If so, be sure it is thoroughly cleaned, inside and out, of soil and weed seeds, before moving it around at all.
- What weeds did you have last year? Think about how machinery will progress from field to field and if you have problematic weeds. Manage the order of field operations, and consider cleaning soil off machinery between fields (especially if it is muddy).
- Did you see some weeds last year, that seemed odd?? One or a few lone weeds can be the start of a new problematic weed populations. **Get to know your weeds.** Do not ignore the lone weed, it may become your nightmare.
- Consider using residual herbicides in your weed control program. Some of our weed issues are developing because we are relying in mostly post-emergent herbicides.