Capital Area Ag Report
July 31, 2014

“Where you want the contest is not among people, but among ideas.” — Casey Cowell

Announcements
Tuesday, August 5, 10:00am-2:30pm - Organic Barley & Rye: Farm to Glass Series with Carey Institute – hosted at Gordon Farm, 144 Beebe Rd. Berne. Growing malting barley and rye and disease assessment with Gary Bergstrom, Plant Pathologist with Cornell. We will also discuss quality testing and storage, and there will be a demonstration of a mobile grain cleaning unit. The Carey Center will discuss their Helderberg Brewshed project which includes a model farm brewery, farm to glass classroom, and farm brewery incubator. A Gordon Farm beef chili lunch will be available. To pre-register and pay, shop online at https://nofa.wufoo.com/forms/zlyc0pf01u0ecf/ or call Stephanie at 585-271-1979 ext. 509 to make payment. Registration is $20/person and lunch will be provided. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged as space is limited and closes at 4pm on 7/29.

Thursday Aug. 14, 2014, NY Corn & Soy Grower Association Crop Tour! At Gary Swede's Farm, Inc in Pavilion, NY! This year's event will feature Ken & Isaac Ferrie and Bill & Missy Bauer as well as several new exhibitors! Register Online! By Aug 9 for early bird rate. View the 2014 Event Brochure

Tuesday August 19, from 12:30 – 3:30—Valatie Research Farm Field Day—128 State Farm Road, Valatie. Walking Tour Sponsored by Cornell University, Cornell Cooperative Extension. Drying Red Clover – New BMR Sorghum – Winter Forage Seminar—Potassium & Sulfur for Alfalfa

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities
Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities
Weather Data—July 30, 2014

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Contact Steve Hadcock, 518-828-3346, Cornell Cooperative Extension in Columbia County for further information. No Pre-registration required. Will be held rain or shine.

**August 21st, 2014 Soil Health Field Day** with CCE at Kinderhook Creek Farm, Inc., 5168 South Stephentown Road, Stephentown, NY from 4:30-8:30 pm. The meeting is FREE, but please RSVP by August 18th, 2014. For more information or to RSVP please contact Marcie Vohnoutka at (518) 272-4210 or mmp74@cornell.edu.

Soil is the backbone of every farm and needs to be managed for maximum production. Are you using the most current techniques for the best results? Experience: Dinner on the farm; Demonstration cover crop plots; A farmer panel; Soil health demonstrations; Equipment demonstrations.

Our speakers include: Olga Vargas, NRCS Soil Scientist; Paul Salon, NRCS Plant Materials Specialist; Frank Gibbs, Certified Professional Soil Scientist and Certified Crop Advisor. 1.5 DEC Credits and 4 CCA Credits Available

**FYI**

The July 2014 issue of **What’s Cropping Up?”**, agronomy information from Cornell Extension Faculty is at http://blogs.cornell.edu/whatscroppingup/2014/07/. In this issue:

- Late Summer is a Good Time to Control “Deep-Rooted” Perennial Broadleaf Weeds
- Preliminary Data Indicate Corn and Wheat Acreage Down but Soybean Acreage Soars in NY in 2014
- How Does Corn Planting Depth Affect Stand Establishment?
- How Does Soybean Planting Depth Affect Early Plant Populations?
**Crops & Soils…Aaron Gabriel**

**Corn:** Recent storms may have brought up disease spores and pests from other regions. Keep your eye out for corn diseases. I have seen an occasional lesion of **northern corn leaf blight.** **Corn Rootworm** are also beginning to emerge. I found several adults beetles in a field that was not yet tasseling. So, the beetles were feeding on the leaves, by eating through all but one epidermal layer (damage called “window-paning”). CRW prefer to feed on silks and pollen, but will feed on leaves if they have to. If you find corn blown down, check the root system to be sure it was not weakened by CRW first. The root ball should have whorls of roots coming off it. If roots are missing, or cut off and brown, the CRW could be involved. **Do Not** rely on genetically modified hybrids every year for CRW control. Every couple of years use an insecticide. With all the rain, **nitrogen may be leaching out of the root zone.** Corn takes up nitrogen past tasseling time. So, depending on your soil type, fertilizer program, and rainfall, you may need to side-dress nitrogen to get top yields. The web program, Adapt-N, http://www.adapt-n.com/, can help you fine-tune your side-dress rate based on weather in your area (3-mile square resolution, with a couple day lag time).
Alfalfa: The fields I was in this week had **Lepto leaf spot**. The lower half of the stem had infected leaves. Timely harvest is probably the best strategy. More research is needed to determine if fungicides will improve yield, quality, or economics. **Japanese beetles** also seemed to be doing some damage. The leaves on the stems seemed to be sparse and small. The Japanese beetles were feeding on the leaf buds. That may have been causing at least some of the missing and poorly formed leaves.

Grasses: There is time to get at least one more cutting of grass before the season is over, if you recently harvested—maybe two if we have a good fall. **Set the cutter bar at 4” to leave green tissue and get rapid regrowth.** Nitrogen will increase yield, but be careful you do not stimulate lush growth when the weather cools down in September. Watch for grass diseases. Notice which varieties do well and poorly.

*Healthy corn roots. They are white and firm. They are growing downward and deep. There are lots of root hairs.*

*This is a corn rootworm pupa, dug up while examining roots.*

*Lepto Leaf Spot, caused by Lepto-speharulina briosiana.*

*Rust on tall fescue.*
**Small Grains:** Grain harvest is underway. This is a critical time to maintain grain quality. Keep out green plant material. Aerate grain so that it comes to ambient temperature. It only takes a difference in temperature from one part of the grain mass to another to cause “moisture migration”. Moisture will move and collect from one area to another within the grain mass if there is a difference in temperature. Then you get mold, insects, and rejected grain. The last couple of years, it has been difficult to buy small grain seed: rye, triticale, barley. Source your seed soon for planting, if you have not already done so.

**Pastures:** Begin stockpiling pasture for fall grazing. Set aside a couple of paddocks. Fertilize them if necessary. Let them grow now for grazing in November into December. Brassicas (swede, turnips, rape) and spring grains can also be planted in the next couple weeks for fall grazing. Winter grains can also be grazed lightly in the fall. Do not plant wheat until mid-September to avoid the Hessian fly and aphid-transmitted viruses.

**Winter Forage:** There has been a lot of interest in planting a spring grain in the summer for harvest in the fall. August would be the time to plant oats for a fall harvest. **HOWEVER,** it is difficult to harvest oats in October or November for silage. They are very wet and do not wilt (unless we have unusual weather). The ground is often soft, so managing heavy machinery is difficult. My suggestion is that when you harvest in October or November, you should do it by grazing or taking greenchop. Making silage is too risky. **HOWEVER,** if you plant a short-season oat (grain oats) that will reach the soft dough stage in October, it will be about 65% moisture, which is perfect for making silage. It can be mowed and chopped without wilting to make silage. Again, you are gambling that it will reach the soft dough stage. So, have a “plan B” to graze it or harvest as greenchop if needed.
Corn Rootworm Decision Making Guide

Field is being rotated out of corn.

- Yes: No need to scout. No need to manage for CRW

Corn has gravid females present in field

- Yes: Complete Cornell Cooperative Extension Sequential Scouting Plan for CRW

  - No: Recheck fields for gravid females in 3-7 days

Field is over threshold.

- Yes: Rotate out of corn or use rootworm insecticide next year.

- No: Manage next year. No need to scout again this season.

Return in 1 week and rescout field. Field is over threshold.

- Yes: Manage next year. No need to scout again this season.

- No: Field has been under threshold 3 consecutive weeks.

  Tassels are browned

- Yes: No need to continue scouting, no need to manage for corn rootworm next year

- No: Continue scouting until field is over threshold or tassels are browned