Capital Area Ag Report
August 1, 2023

Calendar

Thursday, August 17, 2023 at 6:30 pm—8 pm, Small Grain Meeting—at Richy Gaige farm, 392 Middle Rd., Schoharie, NY. Storage Management, Selecting Varieties, Management Decisions at Planting. CCE Educators Aaron Gabriel (CAAHP) & Erik Smith (Central NY). There is much more than VNS rye and bin-run rye. Please RSVP by calling Aaron Gabriel, 518-380-1496, adg12@cornell.edu before 8/17.

New York Soil Health & Climate Resiliency Field Days—August 3rd, 16th, 24th, and 31st.

FYI

NYS Integrated Pest Management videos on Youtube

ProDairy—Corn Silage Harvest Toolkit—2023

Registration Requirement for Custom Manure Applicators, effective July 22, 2023

Crop Scouting Observations & Comments—Aaron Gabriel

Small Grains are being harvested. The rains have created challenges of potential pre-harvest sprouting and lodged fields. Once grains are dried down and in storage, send them off for testing for moisture to the mill that will be purchasing the grain. Calibrate your moisture meter to the mill buying the grain. Moisture content is not an exact measurement. Each mill has their meters
calibrated, but they will not all agree on moisture of the same grain. So, calibrate your meter to that of the grain buyer.

If you have lodged fields and lush weeds growing up that will prohibit combining, consider applying an herbicide to kill the green weeds before harvest. Glyphosate is labelled for wheat and feed barley. 2,4-D and Aim are labelled for some small grains to kill broadleaf weeds. I could not find anything for grass weeds in oats. Since foxtails are edible before they make a spikey seedhead, maybe chopping and making silage of weedy oats for feed is an option. Use an inoculant. The dead oat plants will have a lot of molds on them.

As your harvest, monitor grain temperature and remove the field heat by aerating the grain. You will find grain storage resources on our CAAHP blog, here. Grain needs to be within 15°F of the average monthly temperature to prevent condensation in the bin. So, as fall and winter approach, the temperature of the grain needs to be lowered step by step. The hours to run the fan equals 15 divided by the cfm/bushel. The air flow in cubic feet per bushel (CFM) varies depending on how much grain is in the bin. I have a worksheet on our blog to help you determine that air flow in a bin using an air flow meter. Once you start running fans, do not shut them off until the grain is completely cooled. The fans will usually stay on constantly for a few days. As you run the fan, a layer of moisture moves up through the grain (moisture front). If you turn the fans off before that moisture exits the grain, it will sit part way up the grain mass and a moldy layer will develop. Grain storage management is fairly complex. Go to the Grain Storage Management Education page on our blog or give me a call.

Corn Rootworm adults (CRW) are now in corn fields. The adults feed on silks and lay eggs in the soil where they are feeding. If you have one or more western CRW beetles per plant or more than two northern CRW per plant, they will lay enough eggs that corn in that field next year will have root feeding damage above the economic threshold. Do plant corn in that field in 2024 or manage the CRW population that will be there with transgenic corn, in-furrow insecticides, nematodes, or a high level of seed-applied insecticide. Find more CRW information on our Cornell Field Crops website.

It is time to scout for corn foliar diseases. Our most common diseases are gray leaf spot, northern corn leaf blight, and corn leaf spot. Also be on the lookout for tar spot in corn. If you think you have tar spot, give me a call (Aaron, 518-380-1496)

It is time to make decisions about stock piling pasture for the winter. It is a good year to do that, since we have had plenty of rain and good pasture growth. Select pastures to harvest now, then leave them to put on growth until November and December. Fescues hold up best to the winter cold and frosts, followed by Kentucky bluegrass and ladino clover. Reed canarygrass is the most sensitive to cold and does not persist well, nor does orchardgrass, timothy, bromegrass or ryegrass. More info here.