Capital Area Ag Report
August 15, 2023

Calendar
Thursday, August 17, 2023 at 6:30 pm—8:30 pm, Small Grain Production Meeting, Richy Gaige farm, 392 Middle Rd., Schoharie. Local grain markets, variety trial info and selecting grain varieties, planting management, grain storage. No charge. RSVP to Aaron Gabriel, 518-380-1496, adg12@cornell.edu or Erik Smith, 315-219-7786, eas56@cornell.edu

Only 21 Days Left to Enter the NY Corn and Soybean Yield Contests. Deadline is August 30! Click here to get the entry form on our webpage, https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn%3AAaad%3Asedds%3AUS%3A2a19507-c2f4-3dc3-802f-27f1c3f0f132

FYI
Newly Released New York Cannabis sativa L. Production Manual
July’s Dairy Market Watch is now available for viewing and sharing by clicking here.

The New York Seed Improvement Project has a new website, nyseed.cornell.edu. NYSIP is the Certified Seed agency for New York State which is a joint project of Cornell/CALS and NY Ag & Markets. They are always looking for growers to grow certified crop seed.
A new Small Grains online credit course for certified pesticide applicators from the Cornell Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP). This course discusses integrated pest management for insect pests of small grains. It focuses on correct insect pest identification, lifecycles, and management strategies that can be employed.

**Crop Scouting Observations & Comments—Aaron Gabriel**

Most crops are looking good. Although some fields are too wet to harvest third cutting hay. Corn diseases (northern corn leaf blight and gray leaf spot) are present at a low incidence level (from what I have seen in my scouting). It is common to have a low level of disease during the reproductive stage of corn development. If diseases set before tasseling, that can lead to yield loss.

**Upper lesion is gray leaf spot.**

**Lower lesion is northern corn leaf blight.**

Photo at the left shows an ear with dead and newly growing silks. The ear in the lower left shows that silks at the tip of a similar ear are not pollinated—the silk do not fall off. Pollen shed is complete so some of these ears will not have good tip fill. This probably occurred because there was a temporary pause in growth due to environmental stress (water-logged soil maybe).

I also saw ears where worms had begun to eat the tip (probably corn ear worm or western bean cutworm) but no worms were present. Probably the genetic traits controlled them or birds were being helpful by eating them.

Here is a small patch of tall fescue with a rust disease (top righ photo is a leaf blade with rust pustules). Grasses often get various diseases in the summer (especially orchardgrass). Not much research is done on diseases of cool-season grasses. Our best management at this point is to harvest and hope for a less favorable environment for disease development for the next cutting.
This is a **soybean plant with good pod development** taken from a beautiful field of soybeans. The picture does not do it justice, but we like to see several pods at each node and three or more beans per pod. With the good soil moisture that we have, seeds should develop well. I have not seen any white mold, even though we have moist conditions with warm but not hot temperatures.

**Considerations for Marestail Control in Wheat Stubble**, From Mike Stanyard, CCE, Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team

Riding around the region this week I am seeing a lot of marestail coming up through the wheat stubble. What are you going to do to manage it before it sets seeds? Mowing, tillage, and herbicides alone and in combination are options. Mark Loux of Ohio State has a great article on how to best utilize each of these options ([https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/controlling-marestail-wheat-stubble](https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/controlling-marestail-wheat-stubble)).

**Goal: control marestail and other weeds, then plant a cover crop.** Many growers utilize a cover crop following wheat and other small grains. The major problem with utilizing herbicides prior to cover crop establishment is that 2,4-D, dicamba and Sharpen all have some residual activity and that means delayed planting of cover crops particularly broadleaves (clover, radish, turnip) for 30 days or more. Planting annual ryegrass, oats or cereal rye would be a safer bet with these products. We like to get our cover crops planted during the first two weeks of August. That’s right now! Products such as Gramoxone and Glufosinate have no soil activity and so no waiting period to plant any cover crop and could be options for immediately planting broadleaves. However, there is no silver bullet here. Mark Loux has a Part 2 article that further explains the pros and cons of each of these burndown options ([https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/marestail-control-wheat-stubble-part-2-cover-crop-considerations](https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/marestail-control-wheat-stubble-part-2-cover-crop-considerations)).

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**PRO-DAIRY hires farm business management specialist**

Mary Kate MacKenzie joins the PRO-DAIRY team full time as a farm business management specialist on August 1. Mary Kate brings five years of experience as a farm business management specialist with Cornell Cooperative Extension's South Central NY Dairy and Field Crops Team. For the past three years she has held a joint appointment with CCE and PRO-DAIRY. Mary Kate is passionate about helping farm families improve management skills to advance business and personal goals. She will work with the Dairy Farm Business Summary, the Dairy Profit Monitor, and the Discussion Group programs. She brings expertise in farm financial record keeping, and will lead efforts to develop online educational tools in support of business and financial management on dairy farms. Mary Kate can be reached at mkw87@cornell.edu.

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This is just a picture of a **wasp eating a monarch butterfly caterpillar**. I am sure that it happens all the time, but not usually seen.