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

Capital Area Ag Report
September 7, 2023

Calendar

Meeting being planned for September—November:
- Fall Round Up—Raising Swine
- In-field Small Grain Meetings

Monday, November 13, 2023, 10 am—4 pm, Northeast Grainshed Alliance 2023 Symposium, in Canton, MA. Networking and collaborating for a resilient northeast grain chain. This is an opportunity to

FYI

Take precautions if you save seed for planting. Here is a good article—Retaining Seed

Corn Silage Tool-Kit 2023 from ProDairy

August's Dairy Market Watch is now available for viewing and sharing by clicking here. (Katelyn Wooley-Stoll, CCE SWNY Dairyl, Livestock, Field Crops Team)

Silo Gas – Nitrogen Dioxide
This picture was taken in a tower silo during the 2022 harvest season. It is a classic example of nitrogen dioxide, a yellow to reddish brown gas that can be produced in freshly ensiled feed. This gas is heavier than air and therefore will settle into low areas. It is very dangerous and extreme caution must be taken. Article - Silo Gases - the Hidden Danger
Crop Scouting Observations & Comments—Aaron Gabriel

Winter Grain Planting is almost here. Variety selection needs a lot of attention. Environmental conditions for disease development are less on a hill top than on a valley floor. If planting in a valley or after corn or in fields with a history of disease, pay attention to disease resistance in the variety you choose. Varieties with an early heading date, when the weather is normal, will have a longer cool period to fill grain, which means more yield. Cool season grains need cool weather for maximum yield. Some varieties (usually those with an upright leaf canopy) respond more to fertilizer and other inputs than do others. You may have to ask your seed salesperson to identify these variety traits to meet your management practices.

There are other considerations at planting time. You will find more information posted on our blog in the Packet—Small Grain Pre-Planting Management. You will also find the 2022 Small Grain Variety Trials on that blog page. All the Cornell Small Grain Variety Trials can be found here.

Are you happy with only 40 to 60 bushels of rye to the acre? Plant a named variety like Danko or Hazlet and improve your yields. These varieties are not Plant Variety Protected, so you can grow them and sell them for seed. Find more information on our blog.

Here is an article to help you get ready for planting wheat. Top 8 Recommendations for Winter Wheat Establishment in 2023 (Dr. Shawn Conley, U of Wisc.). Winter wheat in our area should be planted during the third and fourth week of September.

It has been a difficult year to maintain germ health in the small grains this year because there was rain at harvest time. Even a tiny bit of pre-harvest sprouting (invisible to the naked eye) will reduce germination. Take precautions if you save seed for planting. Here is a good article—Retaining Seed. Legally, you must have grain tested if you are going to sell it for seed. Read Selling Seed in New York.

Small grains came off the fields hot and it has been hot ever since. Check stored grains for temperature, moisture, molds, and insects. Call me if you would like me to screen your grains for insects. I have some USDA screens for that purpose. Use a compost thermometer to take the grain temperature in several spots (without walking onto the grain). Once you sink in up to your knee, you will be stuck. Practice grain bin safety. Couple together two or three threaded rods and push the end into the center of the grain mass. Leave it there for a few minutes. Then pull it out and feel the end of the rod to see if it is warm. If it is warm, you may have the beginning of a hot spot with mold, insects and crusting. Also, in the morning, open the bin door; stick you head in; and have another person turn on the fan so that you can get the first air to smell for mustiness, feel for moisture and temperature. Do your glasses fog up? Find more info on our blog at Grain Storage Education for the Hudson Valley.

Control winter annual weeds. September and October are the time to control marestail, chickweed, pennywort, shepherd’s purse, cheatgrass, chamomile, purple deadnettle, and other winter annual weeds. It is easier to kill them when they are small (light tillage, herbicides). If you wait until the spring, they will become competitive—they are the first to grow and flower in the spring. Cover crops will suppress them in the fall and spring, but they will still grow and be competitive, especially if the cover crop is mowed off. Mowing winter annuals will only make them bigger. You mow off the main stem and five more grow in its place (this is a voice of experience). As Chuck Bornt says, when you mow weeds, you only get them mad. Weekly
mowing would be necessary, but then they will grow along the ground and still set seed. **Kill winter annuals in the fall.**

**Soybeans** look very good this year. The rain has helped plants retain and develop lots of pods. In most years, several pods never develop because there is lack of resources (moisture, nutrients, canopy, sunlight). I have seen some disease:

I also found some **white mold**. There is white fuzzy growth on the outside of the stem and small black sclerotia on the inside. Sclerotia are masses of fungal cells that are the disease propagules. They survive in the soil for about five years. In moist conditions at soybean flowering time, they form tiny gelatinous stalks that produce spores. The spores infect flower petals and wounds on the plant. In the right conditions, the plants will just melt away as the disease progresses.

A product called Contans is a fungus that parasitizes the sclerotia and decomposes them. It has had some success in some trials for white mold.

For all three of these diseases, there is nothing to do right now for control.