



**Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Oneida County**

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Farm Flashes

August 2005

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County

Bunker Silo Covers—Worth the Effort?

Many producers are searching for improved methods of covering bunker silos and silage piles to reduce spoilage. The following information outlines the results of a Wisconsin study showing a side-by-side comparison of some surface covering alternatives that producers have tried.



Six clear plastic cylinders, 8-in. diameter by 4-ft tall, were filled with wilted, chopped alfalfa on June 3, 1997. Characteristics of the alfalfa are listed in Table 2 in the row labeled "Day 1." This was an early-cut, high-quality forage. Alfalfa was packed in the cylinders to a density of about 40 lb/cu ft (wet weight). Each cylinder received a different covering treatment. Clear polyethylene plastic was held on the top of one cylinder with a hose clamp. Other cylinders were covered with 5 in. barn lime, 5 in. sawdust, and 0.5 in. molasses. Oat seed was sown on another cylinder. (The oats did not germinate.) The last cylinder received no cover. The sides of each cylinder were wrapped in fiberglass insulation to conserve heat during fermentation.

The cylinders were stored outside until July 21, 1997, when they were moved to the site of Farm Progress Days for exhibition of the results. When the cylinders were returned to Madison, they were stored indoors. On September 22 (112 days after filling), the silage was removed for analysis. Throughout the storage period, 0.5 in. water was applied to the top of the silage at the end of each week for which rainfall was less than 0.5 in.

The results of measurements on the silage are presented in Tables 1 and 2. From Table 1, it is apparent that little depth change occurred when the silage was covered with plastic, while significant depth change occurred for the oat seed, molasses, and no cover treatments. Mold was observed in the top 3 to 5 in. for the plastic- and lime-covered cylinders, and much more mold was observed for the other treatments. For all covers except the plastic, 7 to 25.5 in. of material were lost due to settling or mold removal. Dry matter losses are recorded in the last column of Table 1. These losses include moldy silage removed to achieve quality feed.

The plastic and lime covers did an admirable job of controlling spoilage. There was a slightly larger depth of mold with the lime. Field observations of full-sized silos indicate areas of shrinking and cracking in lime layers, which makes silage below the cracks vulnerable to significant spoilage. Therefore, these demonstration results might be difficult to duplicate on a large scale. Dry matter losses exceeded 15% for the other treatments and were excessive compared to the losses for the plastic cover.

Table 1. Effect of different top covers on losses of silage stored in 8" x 48" plastic tubes.

Cover Treatment	Depth Change (in.)	Mold Depth (in.)	Total Spoiled (in.)	Dry Matter Loss* (in.)
Plastic	0.75	3.25	4.0	9.20
Lime	2.75	4.50	7.25	10.20
Sawdust	3.25	7.50	11.0	18.96
Oat Seed	6.50	12.15	18.75	19.01
Molasses	6.50	12.50	19.00	15.95
Uncovered	7.50	18.00	25.50	29.92

* Includes visibly moldy silage that was removed from tops of tubes

Table 2. Effect of different top covers on feeding value of silage stored in 8"x48" plastic tubes

Cover Treatment	Sampling Location	Moisture Content%	pH	Crude Protein (%)	Acid Detergent Fiber (%)
Day 1		67.1	6.2	27.9	22.0
Day 112					
Plastic	Top	69.7	4.3	26.4	24.5
	Middle	68.4	4.3	27.2	24.3
	Bottom	68.2	4.4	27.2	23.6
Lime	Top	73.9	4.5	26.2	26.8
	Middle	68.5	4.4	28.2	23.0
	Bottom	69.0	4.4	28.9	21.2
Sawdust	Top	83.6	4.8	24.8	32.6
	Middle	73.4	4.3	27.5	23.3
	Bottom	70.2	4.3	27.9	22.9
Oat Seed	Top	85.0	5.1	22.2	37.2
	Middle	77.1	4.5	28.2	25.7
	Bottom	73.2	4.3	30.6	19.8
Molasses	Top	83.6	5.1	23.8	35.8
	Middle	74.4	4.3	27.9	23.1
	Bottom	72.8	4.2	30.4	19.3
Uncovered	Top	84.8	6.1	24.9	34.9
	Middle	81.7	5.5	22.5	32.2
	Bottom	73.3	4.3	28.7	22.5

Table 2 indicates a fairly uniform moisture increase of about 1 to 3 percentage points in the silage with the plastic cover. The moisture increase is probably due to a small amount of dry matter loss during fermentation and due to water released during aerobic decomposition. In the other cylinders, the final moisture content is appreciably higher and generally shows a gradient with higher moisture at the top of the cylinder. This moisture comes from actual and

Mark Your Calendars...



Soil Health Twilight Meeting—Sept. 15, 2005; 6—8 PM; Jerry Dell Farm, Gee Hill Rd., Dryden, NY—For the past 2 years, the Soil Health Project through Cornell University has been testing soils in NYS to learn how different soil management factors affect the soil health. The research team will talk about their findings and will demonstrate some of the measurements they can take to assess soil health. No Fee. Pre-register on-line or call 607-687-4020.

Northeast Small Farm & Rural Living Expo—September 17-18, 2005; GDS Fairgrounds, Newfoundland, PA. Extensive trade show and exhibits, educational workshops, lectures & demos. Visit the expo website at www.smallfarmexpo.org.

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Phone: (315)736-3394

Ag Staff Available To Assist You:

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County has a full staff of professionals ready to assist you. We are available to answer questions, consult with you on various issues, problem-solve, provide information and resources, conduct workshops and seminars on a multitude of topics and more. Our goal is to provide you with the information and resources you need to improve yourself, your farm business, your family, and your life.



Please feel free to give us a call and let us know what we can do for you. Our office hours are Monday—Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Our phone number is (315)736-3394 or (315) 337-2531 or check us out on the web at: www.cce.cornell.edu/~oneida/cce/oneida.

Jeff Miller, Asst. Director for Agriculture Programming, Agronomy & Field Crops—extension 120, email jjm14@cornell.edu

Heather Sweeney, Dairy & Livestock Production—extension 122, email hes7@cornell.edu

Kristen Stockin, Agronomy & Nutrient Management—extension 124, email kes21@cornell.edu

Marty Broccoli, Ag Economic Development Program Director—extension

Tractor & Machinery Safety Reminders

By Jim Carrabba

The busy summer season and harvest times are when the most tractor and machinery fatalities and injuries occur. The most common type of incidents are tractor overturns, runovers, PTO & machinery entanglements, and roadway mishaps. Following simple safety procedures can prevent a tragedy from occurring on your farm this summer.



- ⇒ If you have a roll over protective structure (ROPS), wear your seatbelt
- ⇒ Never allow extra riders on your tractor or machinery
- ⇒ Only start tractors while the operator is sitting in the seat
- ⇒ Only make adjustments or repairs when the PTO is not engaged and the tractor is not running
- ⇒ Keep all PTO shielding in place and operating properly
- ⇒ Wear close fitting clothing, remove hood strings and keep long hair tied up when working around rotating machinery, such as PTO shafts
- ⇒ Display slow moving vehicle (SMV) emblems on vehicles operating at less than 25 MPH
- ⇒ The SMV emblem must be on the back and in the middle, 2 to 10 feet above the road, pointing up
- ⇒ If a towed implement obstructs the SMV on a tractor, the implement must also have the SMV emblem on it
- ⇒ When an emblem becomes dirty or faded, it is illegal and must be replaced
- ⇒ It is illegal to use the SMV emblem on stationary objects, such as trees or driveway markers
- ⇒ Use SMV's with reflective strips, turn signals and flashers.



The "Classic" Cornell Farm Account Book—It's back!! The former Cornell Farm Account Book in its smaller, original size is again available. We have a limited supply of them currently, Stop in or give us a call to check on price and availability.

simulated precipitation as well as from increased deterioration of the silage.

The results of this demonstration confirm the value of tightly sealed plastic as the preferred method of excluding oxygen and precipitation to preserve silage stored in bunker silos and piles.

For good silage preservation and extended feed bunk life, a pH below 4.5 is desirable. The sawdust, oat seed, molasses, and uncovered treatments had silage at the top that had a pH greater than this value.

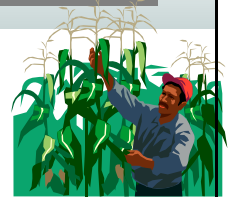
Crude protein values stayed the same or increased slightly where good fermentation was achieved, but protein levels decreased where top spoilage was significant. The acid detergent fiber values showed an opposite trend. Both of these trends suggest that soluble nutrients might have been flushed down in the cylinders due to water movement.

By Brian Holmes, Wisconsin Extension Engineer

Corn Silage Ensiling Guidelines

Harvest at the right stage of maturity

- 9 Corn silage when the milk line is 1/2 to 2/3 the way down the kernel.



Chop at the correct moisture content

- 9 Corn silage: 60—70% moisture; 30—40% DM

Chop at the correct theoretical length of cut (TLC)

- 9 1/4" to 3/8" TLC

Fill the silo rapidly. Enhance compaction

- 9 Tower—Top off with 1 or 2 feet of wet forage.
- 9 Bunker—Compress forage with tractor.
- 9 Bags—Use good filling machine.

Seal silo carefully.

- 9 Tower and bunker silos—Cover with plastic and seal cracks in walls. Secure plastic on bunker silos so that the plastic tarp will not draw air into the silage under windy conditions.
- 9 Bags—Seal ends carefully and repair or replace damaged bags.

Leave silo sealed for at least 14 days.

Crop Shorts

By Jeff Miller &
Kristen Stockin

Soybean scouting update:

There are about 4000 acres of soybeans in Oneida County and the majority look great. As part of a nation wide network CCE staff have been scouting 4 area fields on a weekly basis keeping an eye out for Asian soybean rust (brown raised spots on under side of leaves in the lower canopy). To date no rust has been found in Oneida county or New York State. The diseases we have noted in area fields include septoria brown spot (irregularly shaped brown spots in lower canopy), bacterial blight (black spots surrounded by yellow halo; lower canopy) and more recently downy mildew (yellow irregularly shaped flecks: usually in upper canopy). Julie Stavisky, NYSIPM, noted that on a severely infected plant, downy mildew also can affect soybean seed. While pods show no symptoms, seeds inside can be covered with white fungal mycelia. If this infected seed were planted, stunted seedlings with mottled leaves would result. The fungus that causes downy mildew can survive on infected leaves and seed. A key management strategy for downy mildew is to not plant contaminated seed. Rotation to a crop other than soybean or tillage that deeply buries infected crop residue effectively control downy mildew. None of these diseases have been found to any great extent and have not affected local soybean yields.

Some mechanical injury (biting, chewing damage) has been noted in area fields. Japanese beetles and grasshoppers are probably responsible for this damage. Foliar loss has to hit 40% or more to begin to reduce yields and we haven't seen any damage that comes close to that level.

Soybeans planted by mid May are 32-42" in height, very similar to last year. They are in the R3-R4 stage (beginning pod fill to full pod fill) which is a very critical period for soybean yields. It is imperative to protect soybeans during this period.

Soybean aphids have been present in area fields since early June. Some fields have between 10 and 100 aphids per plant and that level of population has gone up and down slightly throughout the season. Other fields have populations that increased well beyond the 250/plant action threshold and were sprayed. It is important to visit soybean fields now!

Aphids have moved up and down in the canopy in response to high temperatures, so it important when counting to select individual plants at random and count the aphids on each leaf of that plant from top to bottom. You should count aphids on a minimum of 10 plants per field sampling in spots throughout the field.

If you need help or have questions about aphid identification, scouting or making decisions for control give us a call at 736-3394 ext 120 or 124.

Soybean Rust Update

Keith Waldron, NYS IPM; from: <http://www.ppath.cornell.edu/soybeanrustny/default.htm>

Soybean rust on soybeans has been reported in Florida, some adjacent counties in Alabama and Georgia as well as Mississippi. The most recent finds in Mississippi and Georgia were in sentinel plots. The most recent find in Alabama was the first detection in a

Facing Hospitalization Without Insurance

By Patrick O'Hara, CSW

I was recently called over to Bassett Hospital to assist a farmer who was admitted to the inpatient medical unit. As with any hospitalization, medical bills accumulated quickly, and the farmer was without health care coverage. The family was quite concerned about their ability to pay the hospital bill and confused about their options. I coordinated services with the hospital social worker and developed a plan to assist the family. Below are some options for families without healthcare coverage.

Medicaid: Schedule an appointment to apply. The interview can be conducted at the hospital with a Department of Social Services (DSS) caseworker who looks at income and resources. This is done by reviewing a previously submitted income tax return. Medicaid is retroactive for 3 months and therefore covers past hospitalization. With farmers and self-employed individuals, any resource used in the business to produce income is not counted. This includes tractors, equipment, animals, and land. The income level depends on the person's category, which is based upon age, household composition, and disability. However, if the farmer does not qualify for Medicaid there are other programs that might be of financial assistance.

Medicaid Buy-In Program or the Working People With Disability

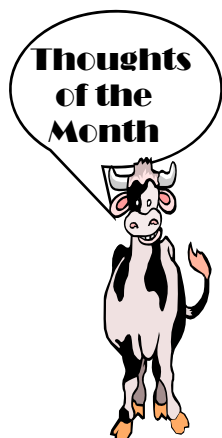
Program: To qualify for this program, an individual needs a certification of disability that comes from the Social Security Administration or the county-based Department of Social Services. Like Medicaid, the Buy-In Program has a financial means test, but the income level is higher making it easier to qualify.

Medicaid Spend-Down Program: If a person's monthly income is too high to qualify for Medicaid, the individual is responsible to "spend down" to the qualifying income level. If an individual is an inpatient at a hospital, they are responsible for six-months of spend down. For example, if it was determined that a person's monthly spend down was \$200 per month, then the individual would be responsible for \$200 x 6 or \$1,200 of the medical bill.

Hospital Financial Assistance: The Community Service Program at Bassett Healthcare offers financial assistance to individuals who are ineligible for Medicaid and meet the program income limit and resource level. Other hospitals also have financial assistance programs.

Facing hospitalization without health care coverage can be a frightening experience. The New York Center for Agricultural Medicine & Health (NYCAMH) and Bassett Healthcare social workers, in coordination with the county-based DSS caseworker, can work with the individual and direct them toward the most appropriate program. For more information contact NYCAMH's social worker, Patrick O'Hara at 800-343-7527, ext. 235 or your county-based Department of Social Services.

CIDRS and Ovsynch: A Good Match For Heifers



Do you have limited success catching heifers in heat and getting them bred in a timely fashion? If so, then you might want to try using a CIDR insert with a synchronization program and timed AI.

According to research from the University of Wisconsin Department of Animal Science, all heifers that had CIDR (controlled internal drug-releasing) devices inserted during the first six days of the Ovsynch program were bred on the eighth day of the program using timed AI. In contrast, 24 percent of the heifers that were on the Ovsynch program and that did not get CIDRs showed estrus early and were bred prior to scheduled AI.

The Ovsynch protocol uses sequential injections of GnRH and prostaglandin to synchronize ovulation. Timed AI occurs on the eighth day of the protocol, following the last GnRH injection.

The researchers conclude that the excellent synchronization response of heifers with CIDR inserts makes the combination of CIDRs and Ovsynch a good tool to use when visual heat detection of heifers is limited.

The research was reported in the March issue of the Journal of Dairy Science.

Don't Forget to Keep Calves Cool in Summer

Cows aren't the only ones affected by hot summer temperatures. Calves can also suffer from heat stress. This reduces daily gain, lowers immune function, and causes dehydration. In order to keep calves growing and healthy, consider these suggestions for dealing with summer heat stress:

- ⇒ Place calf hutches under a shade cloth or in a shady area.
- ⇒ Space calf hutches far enough apart for good airflow and open all vents. Also allow calves an area outside the hutch.
- ⇒ Consider using sand to bed hutches. This will keep calves cooler than straw or other insulative bedding. Also, if kept clean and dry, sand can help reduce flies.
- ⇒ Provide clean water at all times, starting with the day the calf is born.

commercial field in 2005. Scouting and spore trapping continues throughout the soybean production areas of the U.S. Scouting of sentinel plots in New York State continues this week and to date no soybean rust has been found. The risk of soybean rust infection in New York is currently considered to be low and no fungicide application for soybean rust is advocated at this time. (Last updated 7/27/05)

Soybean Aphid Management Guidelines

Keith Waldron, NYS IPM

Expect soybean aphid populations to rise over the next week or so as "cooler" temperatures (in the 80's F) occur over our region. Here's a short review of guidelines for management, adapted from: <http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/soyhealth/aqlycine.htm>

Pay particular attention to late-planted fields, or fields under moisture stress. Examine the entire plant, particularly the new growth at the top and side branches. Use an action threshold of 250 aphids per plant if populations are actively increasing. This action threshold should be based on an average of 250 aphids per plant over 20-30 plants sampled throughout the field. Regular field visits are required to determine if soybean aphid populations are increasing. In replicated research trials, in the Midwest, this threshold have worked well in R1 (right at first bloom) to R4 soybeans. This threshold incorporates an approximate 7-day lead-time between scouting and treatment to make spray arrangements or handle weather delays. Spraying at or beyond R6 has not been documented to increase yield.

Like more discussion? See "Soybean Aphid Management Recommendations (Consensus recommendations developed by Ontario and U.S. researchers, Jan. 2004)" <http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/crops/field/news/croppest/2004/08cp04a2.htm>

Research to enhance Soybean aphid management guidelines continues. Data (SBA counts, growth stage, yield, etc.) from Treat - No treat fields is in "short supply". If you have a situation that will be treated and have the ability to collect information including yield checks please consider doing a trial. More SBA data will help us all. **For more information contact Jeff or Kristen.**

Corn root worm scouting:

Our earliest planted field corn started to tassel about mid July. Silk development and pollen shed occur over an approximate 2 week period. This is a time when corn rootworm (CRW) adults are attracted to corn fields to feed on the pollen and silks. This is also an opportune time to save money in crop production. Why treat fields for CRW if it isn't a problem? The only way to tell is to scout your corn fields during the 2-3 weeks after tasseling.

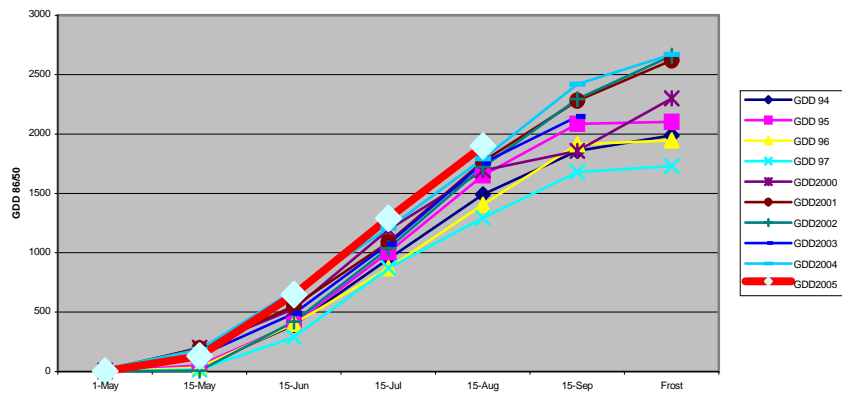
Here is how you scout for CRW: To scout the field: enter the field approximately 50' from the field edge, quietly walk up to a plant and put your hand around the silks, begin to count the number of northern and western corn rootworm beetles on the rest of the plant, finally release the silks and count the number of corn rootworm beetles on the silks. Move down approximately 10 plants and continue to add to your count the additional number of



northern and western corn rootworms you find. Do this again to a third plant keeping a running separate count of the number of westerns and northern counted. Walk to the middle of the field and add the number of northern and westerns counted on three plants at that location then walk to the far end and add the number of northern and westerns counted on three additional plants. Northern count as 1/2 of a western corn rootworm so add up the number of northern and divide by 2 and then add that number to the number of westerns counted and compare the result with the chart below:

Sequential Sampling Plan for Corn Rootworm											
Plant	N	T	RT	Plant	N	T	RT	Plant	N	T	RT
1	10000			15	7	70		20	70	70	
2	10000			16	0	80		21	80	80	
3	10			17	0	80		22	80	80	
4	10			18	0	80		23	80	80	
5	10			19	10	80		24	80	80	
6	10			20	10	80		25	80	80	
7	10			21	10	80		26	80	80	
8	0	10		22	10	80		27	80	80	
9	0	10		23	10	80		28	80	80	
10	0	10		24	10	80		29	80	80	
11	0	10		25	10	80		30	80	80	
12	0	20		26	10	80		31	80	80	
13	0	20		27	10	80		32	80	80	
14	0	20		28	10	80		33	80	80	

Growing Degree Day Comparison 1994-2005



The graph above summarizes growing degrees accumulated starting on May 1st using the 86/50 method of growing degree days for corn production.



Results of 2005 CCE Hay Contest at the Boonville-Oneida County Fair

1st cut grass:

1st place Mark Rickmyer
2nd place George Keith

Prize:

Bag of alfalfa seed
\$15 gift certificate

2nd cut grass:

1st place Mark Rickmyer
2nd place George Keith

Bag of alfalfa seed
\$15 gift certificate

1st cut alfalfa:

1st place Mark Rickmyer
2nd place George Keith

Bag of alfalfa seed
\$15 gift certificate

2nd cut alfalfa:

1st place Tom Cassidy
2nd place George Keith

Bag of alfalfa seed
\$15 gift certificate

1st cut alfalfa/grass:

1st place George Keith
2nd place Ralph Rickmyer

Bag of alfalfa seed
\$15 gift certificate

2nd cut alfalfa/grass

1st place George Keith

Bag of alfalfa seed

GRAND CHAMPION:

George Keith

Bag of alfalfa seed

Judging was based on a DairyOne forage analysis, and other characteristics including appearance, smell, and feel.

A special thanks to our judges:

Jen Beckman, Lewis County CCE;
Mike Dennis, Seneca County CCE,
Shawn Bossard, Seneca Co. CCE.

Thanks to all the following who donated prizes:

1st place prizes—bags of seed: Andy Mower (Pioneer Seeds), Tom Brouillette (Seedway/Asgrow), Bob Dewaine (Monsanto/Dekalb), Pohls Feedway, Buddy Richardson, and F.S. Growmark

2nd place prizes—monetary gift certificates: Empire Tractor, Cazenovia Equipment, and Clinton Tractor

Your contributions are greatly appreciated!



Haycrop Price Per Ton Given Quality and DM

Type	%ACP	%NDF	@ 35% DM	@ 65% DM	@ 85% DM
Legume	23.7	39.1	\$43.25	\$80.33	\$105.04
Legume	20.8	45.0	\$29.97	\$55.65	\$72.77
Legume	17.9	50.9	\$16.68	\$30.98	\$40.52
MMLegume	21.6	43.5	\$41.69	\$77.43	\$101.25
MMLegume	18.7	49.7	\$27.77	\$51.58	\$67.45
MMLegume	15.7	55.9	\$13.85	\$25.73	\$33.64
MMGrass	18.5	50.8	\$33.93	\$63.01	\$82.40
MMGrass	15.3	57.0	\$19.79	\$36.76	\$48.07
MMGrass	12.0	63.3	\$5.65	\$10.49	\$13.72
Grass	18.2	52.0	\$39.52	\$73.40	\$95.98
Grass	14.4	58.9	\$24.01	\$44.60	\$58.32
Grass	10.7	65.7	\$8.50	\$15.79	\$20.65

In The News



Border Opens to Canadian Beef

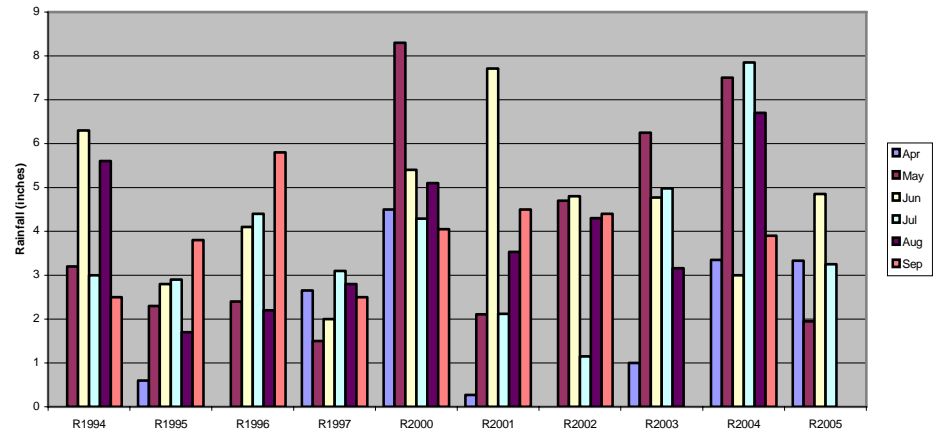
Canadian cattle have started moving across the border into the United States for the first time since a U.S. case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy brought trade to a halt more than two years ago.

The first shipment took place in mid-July and crossed into New York from Ontario. The cattle reportedly were destined for a slaughter facility in Pennsylvania. The move came just days after the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned an injunction aimed at preventing the border from reopening to Canadian beef.

The border is not open to cattle and bison less than 30 months of age, and goats and sheep less than 12 months for immediate slaughter and feeding, as well as a broader range of meat products.

The question recently came up as to whether this included breeding stock (i.e. dairy heifers). The answer: NO! Only cattle intended for slaughter are allowed to enter the U.S.

Rainfall Comparison 1994-2005



The graph above summarizes monthly rainfall totals for Oneida County (an average of at least 4 sites) for a number of years from 1994 to today. Special thanks to the Collins Family in Chadwicks, Humphreys in New Hartford, Bob Pawlowski in Verona and Paul van Lieshout in Verona for their collection of rainfall and temperature data.

Weather and 2005 Growing Season

It rained only 3 of the first 21 days of April allowing most of you to plow and fit fields for new seedings in a timely fashion as compared to nearly impossible conditions the past two springs. Similarly only 5 of the first 20 days of May had rain and 3 of those days had only 1/100". This allowed timely planting of most area corn fields. The first 2 weeks of May were cooler than last year and then the heat started and has continued to date.

Most of you reported first cut hay yields at 1/2 to 2/3 of normal. Second cut grass yields were also below normal but second cut alfalfa yield reports differed depending upon location and quantity of alfalfa in the stand. Almost everybody was reporting good quality in the hay that was harvested.

We have received about 13" of rain from April to the end of July, that compares with 21" of rain during the same time period last year. It is hard to make a global statement of how rainfall has affected crops because of how scattered the showers have been. Growers have many stories of successfully baling hay at one location while fields were being drenched only a mile or 2 away. For the most part our local corn crop looks excellent. We were well past knee-high by the 4th of July, in fact, one field I was in on the 8th was already over my head. I saw a few corn fields with the leaves rolling during the hot part of the day but unfurling over night. I have to start peeling husks to see how well the corn pollinated this year but, if you can go by area sweet corn we should have good pollination. We have amassed 1668 GDDs 86/50 method by the end of July. We were ahead of last year by 100 GDDs at that point and have added a bunch more since then. It is very important that we start checking our corn silage fields for moisture now! It is going to be an early year. Don't go by milklime it will be wrong! Its best to run ten plants through the chopper and check the moisture content. We have a chipper, scale and microwave so if you want to bring us ten plants we will check the moisture for you. Just call 736-3394 ext 120 or 124 to let us know that you are coming.

Our area wheat crop was good to excellent this year with growers reporting 60-100 bu/ac yields. They also reported no visible sprouting or fusarium so it looks like they will be rewarded for their efforts this year.

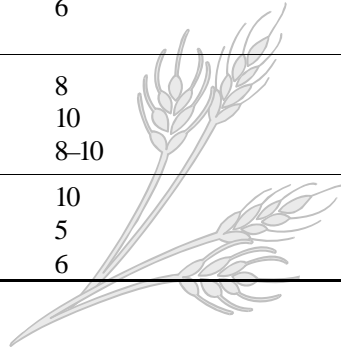
Soybeans are filling pods right now. This is a critical time for yield. Moisture seems adequate right now but we could benefit from some rain. Hopefully the scattered showers that are forecast for this week are actualized and we all receive some rain.



Summer Seedings:

The first two weeks of August are usually a reasonable time to establish new seedings of hay. There is usually ample time for seeds to germinate and plants to develop root reserves before the winter. This year growers should assess soil moisture before they plant. Rainfall has been scattered throughout the county. Growers should make decisions based on individual site conditions. Find below a chart with research based rates of seed combinations for a variety of soil conditions and crop management.

Table 4.2.1. Forage for hay or silage		
Soil conditions and Desired Management	Crop ¹	Seeding Rate (lb./A)
Well-drained soils, early first cut, 3 to 4 cuttings	Alfalfa	12-15
	Alfalfa and timothy or	8-12
	bromegrass or	4-6
	orchardgrass or	5-8
	reed canarygrass	4-6
Moderately to well-drained soils, 2 to 3 cuttings	Alfalfa	6-8
	Alfalfa and timothy or	12-15
	bromegrass or	8-12
		4-6
		5-8
Variable drainage with spots in field too wet for alfalfa, 2 to 3 cuttings	Alfalfa and birdsfoot trefoil and timothy or	6
	reed canarygrass	4
		6
		6-8
Poorly to well-drained soils, short-term hay, 1 to 2 years	Red clover and timothy	6-8
		6
Moderately to well-drained soils, grasses, 3 to 4 cuttings	Timothy or	8
	orchardgrass or	10
	reed canarygrass	8-10
Moderately to well-drained soils, for cover on dikes, roadbanks	Crownvetch and timothy or	10
	tall fescue	5
		6



What's That Haylage/Baleage/Hay Worth?

By David R. Balbion, Dairy Specialist, Central NY CCE Team



This is a common question that we get at this time of year. I'd like to give you some info that relates to the value of this feed for lactating dairy cows. This value is not the same as the price paid for the following hay crop uses: horses, bedding dry cows, heifers, mulch, mushroom production, etc. The demand for those hay crop uses may make the price worth more than the value for making milk. Also keep in mind that the pricing of forages may be very local. A standing hay field with no one looking to harvest it may have forage value but command a low price in the open market. In this situation, there is just not enough demand to justify much of a price. Equally, if several people in your area need feed and you would like to harvest a field of your neighbor's nice third cutting alfalfa, the price is probably going to be higher than you might have hoped.

The first issue is that the value of a standing hay crop is very dependant on two primary things, the yield per acre and the quality of the feed. So unless you know (or can estimate fairly closely) the yield, we can't come up with a value. Oftentimes people will agree on a price per ton (corrected to a standard dry matter). Then a couple of wagons or trucks will be weighed. From there the number of loads are counted to come up with a quantity. Quality is something we can deal with more easily.

Below is a table that came from a haycrop pricing program (runs on Excel) that uses formulas I developed a few years back to price haycrop on dry matter, adjusted crude protein and NDF for lactating dairy cows. The program was designed to value quality, yet provide enough room for someone to make a reasonable margin when it is fed to lactating cows. There are three sets of quality parameters for each of the haycrop descriptions. I got these from 5 years of data from the Dairy One Forage Lab for haycrop silage. They depict the high end of the normal range, the average, and the low end of the normal range in quality. Also, you'll see that I standardized dry patters at 35%, 65%, and 85%. This is an attempt to standardize the values to depict haylage, baleage, and dry hay. Dry matter differences can make a huge difference in the per ton value of this feed. Be sure to use your dry matters! Don't hesitate to call your local Cooperative Extension office if you need help making a dry matter conversion.

The value shown would be for feed delivered or put into storage. If the feed is standing in the field you need to subtract the harvesting costs. Harvesting costs are different for everyone. However, I believe you'll find that for most people, it will cost between \$15 and \$20 per ton to harvest haylage (based on 35% DM). If we take those same harvest costs and translate them for baleage (based on 65% DM) we'll come up with a range of \$27.86 to \$37.14 per ton. For dry hay (at 85% DM) the numbers would range from \$36.43 to \$48.57 per ton. You can see that for the poorer quality feed, it's value for lactating cows is most often less than the harvest cost. Buyers of standing hay also need to consider that they are the ones taking the weather risk and need to make a slight adjustment in price for that.