

**Washington County Ag Report
July 13, 2004**

Contributors are Sandy Buxton, Colleen Converse, Aaron Gabriel, Laura McDermott, and JJ Schell.

“Life’s greatest failure is giving up what we want most for what we want now” -- unknown

Announcements

Monday, July 19, 6:00 PM. - Deer Fencing and Nuisance Wildlife Strategies, Cornell Orchards, Paul Curtis, Wildlife Management Specialist, will show and explain several fencing installations. There will also be discussion regarding other practices to deter wildlife. The Cornell Orchards are at 709 Dryden Rd/Rt 366, on the east side of Ithaca. Pre-register by calling (607) 272-2292 (Monika Roth). No fee. Questions: Monika Roth or Jim Ochterski (607-535-7161).

Tuesday, July 20, 6 - 8 PM - Large Scale Gourmet Salad Mix Production – Hosted by Chris Regan at Sky Farm, 1395 Boston Corners Road, Millerton, NY (Dutchess County). Contact the Regional Farm & Food Project at (518) 271-0744 or farmfood@capital.net (Subject: Farm Tours) for directions and reservations.

Friday, July 23, 11 AM - 3 PM On-Farm Milk Processing at an Organic Dairy: A Promising Trend - A Field Day at the Chenango County Fairgrounds, East Main Street, Norwich, NY (Chenango County) Hosts: David and Sue Evans, Evans Farmhouse Creamery, open for scheduled tours during the Field Day (located a few miles away). *Co-sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County*. Contact the Regional Farm & Food Project at (518) 271-0744 or farmfood@capital.net (Subject: Farm Tours) for directions and reservations.

Sunday, July 25, 2 - 4 PM - Growing Cut Flowers for a Retail Market - Hosted by Suzanne Balet at Balet Flowers & Design, 5041 Nelson Avenue Extension, Malta, NY. Free farm tour, including basic bouquet design. Contact the Regional Farm & Food Project at (518) 271-0744 or farmfood@capital.net (Subject: Farm Tours) for directions and reservations.

Wednesday, July 28, 9AM - 3PM – Young Dairy Managers Seminar - SUNY Cobleskill
The program is for youth interested in dairy production and management and will consist of 4 one hour sessions on the topics of cow behavior, fresh cow management, nutrition and hoof care. Lunch is included with an afternoon ice cream and door prize wrap-up session. There is no charge for the workshop. Contact the Agriculture and Natural Resources Division office at 518 255-5324 with questions. Pre-register by calling or emailing no later than Friday July 25th.

Thursday, July 29, 9:30AM – 3PM – Aurora Field Day - at Cornell University’s Robert D. Musgrave Research Farm, Poplar Ridge Rd., Aurora, NY. Tour of research plots for field crops. CCA and Pesticide credits available. Contact Pam Kline 607-255-2177 for details. AG

Air Emissions from dairies is the latest environmental topic. You may keep up to date with this topic by visiting the Cornell ProDairy website at www.ansci.cornell.edu/prodairy, and click on the section titled "EPA consent agreement information".

Weather Data – 2004 and average of 1999 - 2003

	Argyle		Easton		Whitehall		Jackson	
	2004	Average '99 – '03	2004	Average '99 – '03	2004	Average '99 – '03	2004	Last Year
Rain Past Week	2.07	0.92	1.05	0.42	1.09	0.82	0.58	0.97
So far this month	3.26	1.40	1.85	1.73	1.36	2.42	1.56	0.97
Total since April 1 st	13.90	11.08	12.85	12.34	11.54	12.67	13.80	8.71
GDD Base 41 Growing Degree Days = [hi temp + low temp]/2 – 41								
Past Week	203	193	188	199	217	205	208	217
Since April 1 st	1829	1816	1888	1894	2085	2048	1885	1876
GDD 86/50 [hi temp + low temp]/2 - 50 High's >86°F are set to 86°F, low's <50°F are set to 50°F								
Past Week	142	133	135	137	156	146	144	151
Since April 1 st	1241	1224	1316	1301	1404	1386	1309	1282

Midwest Commodity Prices - from the Wall Street Journal

Corn per bushel	\$2.36/bu	Cotton Seed Meal per ton	\$180/ton
Soybean per bushel	9.08/bu	Corn Gluten Feed	71/ton
Hominy Feed per ton	78/ton	Wheat, soft white	4.05/bu
48% Soybean meal per ton	335/ton	Tallow per pound	.21/lb

These prices are provided only to show where the general market trends are moving and to help you determine appropriate ration ingredients. Local prices will vary due to shipping, processing, and discounts.

DAIRY NOTES: Have you ever noticed a vaccinated animal come down with the disease they have been vaccinated for? Vaccinations are nothing more than a management tool that will never replace management itself. They can compliment each other if done correctly. There are common stressors that will hinder the effectiveness of the vaccine if not taken into consideration.

If you vaccinate cattle within four hours of trucking, it is likely only 40% will respond to the vaccine. Wait at least 12 hours after delivery; waiting 24 hours is even better.

Avoid vaccinating when the temperatures exceed 85°F and relative humidity is above 35%. Remember that a Holstein's core body temperature peaks two to four hours after the outside temperature peaks. Vaccinate first thing in the morning! 5 p.m. or 6 p.m. is the absolute worst time to vaccinate!

The calving process releases steroids into the cows systems, which are highly immunosuppressant. So avoid vaccinating cows from two days prior to calving to five days after.

Poor nutrition, particularly poor micro-mineral nutrition, will decrease immune response and increase adverse reactions.

So, before you place the blame on the pharmaceutical company or the veterinarian that recommended the vaccine, make sure that your managerial skills are up to par and you follow label directions.

FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: I saw a quote yesterday from a New York farmer who said “growing the stuff is easy, running the business is hard.” This is a statement that not everyone would agree with because it is easy to get caught up in the everyday. Weather, crisis issues, breakdowns and interruptions are tremendous distractions to just getting the daily work done. But there is the next level of stuff to plow through: keeping up on regulations, submitting paperwork, and analyzing records that also has to find a high spot on the priority list. For some this non-crisis list never makes it onto priority status, and that is one of the places money can be lost or found. Try to make sure that you are finding a way to look at better ways to help your business.

CROPS

Soil Quality: This time of year, thunderstorms deliver lots of rain quickly. Often we lament that it all runs off and the inch of rain that falls in one hour has done little good. A couple of things can help these brief and heavy showers to soak into the soil. A layer of organic mulch on the soil surface will prevent crusting and increase infiltration. That layer may be something you lay down or previous crop residue. Mulch between plastic beds for vegetables is a good way to keep produce very clean. Also, soil high in organic matter will absorb water better than if the soil is low in organic matter. Loose soil with good tillage will also absorb water faster. Soil compaction is like a plug in a drain.

Beneficial Insects: Below are pictures of a lady beetle larva (courtesy Cornell U.) and an adult (courtesy ISU). Both are “good guys” which feed on aphids and other small soft bodied insects, like corn borer larvae.

Lady Beetle Larva



Adult Lady Beetle



Cover Crops: Bare soil will lose organic matter in the heat of July, whenever there is adequate moisture. The hotter it is the faster the microbes consume organic matter. Potential summer cover crops, to shade the soil and build soil structure and add organic matter include sorghum/sudan, soybeans, and cowpeas. When oats are planted in the late summer, they often develop a rust disease that covers the leaves. This reduces their production and makes them look really bad.

Alfalfa: The scattered showers are making 2nd cutting a challenge. I was gone for two weeks, and now I am seeing high numbers of potato leafhopper (PLH) in some fields. Spray stubble if

necessary and harvest uncut stands as soon as possible. Yellow leaves are not always caused by PLH, however. PLH damage causes a yellowish V-shaped area to form beginning at the tip of leaflets. Boron deficiency causes yellowing often with a reddish tinge on the leaflet margins. Verticillium wilt also causes a wilting of the upper leaves, which turn pale green, then yellow, then white. Sulphur deficiency also turns leaves a pale green then yellow, but it is most intense in the lower foliage, rather than the upper foliage as with boron, PLH, or Verticillium. Summer is a good time to apply potassium and phosphorus fertilizers. Be sure to apply manure within a couple of days after cutting, to avoid damage to the regrowth.

Trefoil: I learned something about trefoil from some recent email messages. When mowing trefoil, it is best to leave 6 – 7” of stubble for rapid regrowth. Rapid regrowth is necessary for trefoil to compete with weeds. The growth habit of old trefoil varieties is to lay on the ground. Modern varieties are more upright to improve hay yields. However, it seems that we need to raise the cutter bar considerably when mowing trefoil to maintain a healthy stand.

Field Corn: Corn is looking much better over the past couple of weeks. Early fields are looking good and late-planted fields are looking fair. It seems that the uneven growth stage of corn has evened out. This may be an elusion. Record or remember the variability in your fields so that you can better judge when to harvest at the correct moisture content. Overall, corn populations are slightly to moderately low. European corn borers are out and feeding in the corn whorls. You will find a small worm if you pull out a whorl and peel of each leaf.

The "Crop Available Nitrogen from Manure" calculator and "New York State Nitrogen Recommendations for Corn" calculator have been updated on the NMSPP web site at http://nmspp.css.cornell.edu/nutrient_guidelines/.

Grasses: Grasses hoppers are more common, but I have seen no insect problems in grasses. Keep track of orchardgrass. This time of year is when we have seen the disease *Cercosporidium graminicola*. The leaves have a burned tip appearance and brown spots on the leaves. Please call me if you see any diseases in orchardgrass.

VEGETABLES

Cucurbits: Sandea and Pumpkins: Now that pumpkins have been planted and the crop and weeds are growing vigorously, there is understandable interest in the postemergence herbicide Sandea (halosulfuron) produced by Gowan. The following is a list of *Do's and Don'ts and Wills and Won'ts...* (Andrew Senesac, LI Fruit and Veg Update)

Do...

- Apply Sandea when the pumpkins are at the 2-5 leaf stage.
- Add a (NIS) non-ionic surfactant (0.25%v/v).
- Apply 1/2 oz (product) per acre.
- Clean spray equipment thoroughly after application. A little contamination can go a long way.

Don't...

- Apply after the pumpkins have begun to bloom.
- Apply more than 1 ounce of Sandea per crop cycle.

Will...

- Suppress Purslane and Lambsquarters when applied as a PRE treatment.
- Control Yellow Nutsedge, Pigweed, Ragweed, Galinsoga, Wild Radish (mustard) and Smartweed (lady's thumb).
- Be rainfast within 4 hours of application.

Won't...

- Control Purslane and Lambsquarters when applied as a POST treatment.

Pesticides: Acramite For Vine Crops, Tomato And Eggplant: The reduced-risk miticide Acramite now has a label for use on cucurbits (cucumbers, melons, etc.) and fruiting vegetables (tomatoes, eggplant, peppers). Acramite has performed very well in Long Island trials for controlling twospotted mite infestations. Be sure coverage under leaves is good. Water pH should be below 7 and hardness at moderate to low levels for best residual control. (LI Fruit and Veg Update)

Sincerely,

Aaron Gabriel
Extension Educator
Crops and Soils