

**Washington County Ag Report
July 26, 2005**

Contributors are Sandy Buxton, Sandy Ferry, Aaron Gabriel, and Laura McDermott. Thanks to Connie Havens for compilation and formatting.

Quote

“Being extremely honest with oneself is a good exercise.” -- Sigmund Freud

Saturday, July 30, 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Beef Producer Field Day and Summer Picnic at Golden Acres Charolais, 756 Star Route 143, Westerlo, NY for more info or to register call Billie-Jo at 765-3512.

Wednesday, August 3, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Tillage Field Day at Allenwaite Farm, Waite Rd. in Easton. Comparison of tillage in corn using a parabolic subsoiler, straight-shank soil builder, and moldboard plow. Tom Kilcer (CCE Rensselaer Co.) will lead the discussion.

Thursday, August 4, 10:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Dairy Tour for Local Dairy Farmers at Chambers Valley Farm in Salem. Various expansion projects (barns and new parlor) have been completed. Discussion topics will also include cow comfort, internal herd growth, the Salem Manure Project, crops and conservation projects. Please call to pre-register, call 1-800-548-0881

August 12 & 13 - NODPA 5th Annual Summer Field Days Event, Nichols, NY. Field trips, info, discussion. Ed Maltby (413)772-0444 or ednopa@comcast.net

August 16 - Floriculture Field Day, Featured Speaker: Allen Armitage, Cornell Campus, Ithaca, NY. Mark your calendar, More info coming soon.

Tues. - Wed., August 16-17 - Landscape Management Short Course and Floriculture Field Day. Cornell Campus, Ithaca. Focus will be on: Plant Materials at Cornell Plantations, trees, shrubs, perennials, and ground covers. Pest Management-diagnosing insect, diseases and weed pests. Soils and lawn workshops. Cornell campus, Ithaca, NY. Contact: Joann Gruttadaurio jg17@cornell.edu or 607-255-1792.

www.hort.cornell.edu/instruction/short/managelandscape.htm

August 23 - IPM Walk - Diagnosing Problems of Landscape Plants and Turfgrass. 6:30-8:00pm on August 23, 2005 at the RPI campus, Troy, NY, 12180. Contact: Chuck Schmitt at 518-765-3500 or email [cgs34@cornell.edu](mailto:cds34@cornell.edu)

Thursday, September 8th – Coach Bus Trip to Wave Hill Gardens and Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture. Sponsored by Master Gardeners of Washington County, but opened to the general public. Cost is \$50/person for guided tours and transportation. Please call 746-2560 for more information on this trip, or check out our website at <http://www.cce.cornell.edu/washington/washington.html>. Registration is due by August 25th, but trip should fill quickly.

Weather Data – 2005 and average of 1999 - 2004

	Argyle		Easton		Whitehall		Jackson	
	2005	Average '99 – '04	2005	Average '99 – '04	2005	Average '99 – '04	2005	Average '03 – '04
Rain Past Week	0.04	1.08	0.00	0.59	0.11	1.55	0.00	0.92
So far this month	2.92	4.24	4.40	3.56	2.83	4.60	3.91	3.51
Total since April 1 st	15.01	14.08	14.37	14.23	14.95	14.84	15.56	9.00
GDD Base 41 Growing Degree Days = [hi temp + low temp]/2 - 41								
Past Week	244	213	235	215	265	222	234	211
Since April 1 st	2353	2214	2393	2289	2768	2466	2428	2272
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	170	153	163	149	191	158	158	145
Since April 1 st	1607	1503	1679	1576	1888	1680	1715	1570

Midwest Commodity Prices - from the Wall Street Journal

Corn per bushel	\$2.12/bu	Cotton Seed Meal per ton	\$148/ton
Soybean per bushel	6.68/bu	Corn Gluten Feed	52/ton
Hominy Feed per ton	46/ton	Wheat, soft white	3.60/bu
48% Soybean meal per ton	213/ton	Tallow per pound	.17/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.

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Trading Post

Welder with Welder on Wheels. Your yard or on the spot. Anytime, Anywhere. 747-9180. Low Rates.

DAIRY NOTES: While talking with Dr. Roger Ellis the other day I found out about a new rule that a lot of people probably do not know about. You now have to keep your grain receipts with an ingredient list for a minimum of one year to be able to show the ingredients in your grain. This is because of the BSE discoveries this last year. You need to be able to show that all the ingredients are for ruminants. They would like you to keep them for five years but at least one year is needed.

FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: The Canadian border is back open to beef animals under 30 months that are headed for slaughter or feeding then slaughter. While this also includes Bison, sheep and goats, the rules are very much the same for all. Some of the key ones are that vehicles transporting animals are sealed and labeled and can only be opened by an official agent

(which may include a vet or their employee) who will complete paperwork and return it to the Point of Entry. The animals also must be less than 30 months and slaughtered while they are less than 30 months, they also can not be pregnant. For more information, please look at the USDA website in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

CROPS

Soil Health: Soil moisture is getting a little short. I did see some corn with curling leaves the other day. A hard pan not only prevents water from draining through a soil, but it also prevents soil moisture from moving to the surface from the subsoil. Hopefully we will get some rain tonight. **An organic mulch on the soil surface (crop residue, straw, etc) helps tremendously to improve water infiltration.** A rough soil surface also helps.

Beneficial Insects: So far, it seems like lady beetles, flower flies, parasitoids, and other beneficial insects are keeping aphids under control on alfalfa and soybean. If we get a prolonged dry spell, the situation may change.

Alfalfa: Most fields have few potato leaf hopper, although I did see my first field this week with PLH damage. **Consider the field conditions before you spread manure on alfalfa.** Moist soils are soft and alfalfa crowns can be damaged by heavy machinery. Dry soils prevent traffic damage. I think that we had a lot of alfalfa winter kill last winter because we previously had two wet years which promoted machinery damage to crowns. The damage caught up to us this spring.



Pea Aphids in Alfalfa, Julie Stavisky, NYS IPM. Is there any such thing as too many? This week when I was sweeping alfalfa in Wyoming County to check for potato leafhopper, I should have had a measuring cup with me! Every time I took 10 sweeps, I estimate that the sweep net contained approximately a cup and a half of aphids. To continue my PLH searching, I resorted to taking a single sweep at a time. Can this many aphids be tolerated? Well, aphid numbers might not be our best indicator. Instead, answering several questions from observations that accompany a pea aphid

infestation will be more useful. To have a significant economic impact, some of the following conditions would have to exist:

- 1 - Are the plants drought stressed?
- 2 - Are stunted plants observed?
- 3 - Are heavy honeydew and/or sooty mold present?
- 4 - Are leaves becoming curled, cupped or otherwise misshapen?
- 5 - Are natural enemies absent?

If in doubt, cutting within the next week will help prevent a growing pea aphid outbreak from reaching economic proportions.

The photo above shows a plant with heavy (but non-economic) population of pea aphids:

Field Corn: Both northern and western corn rootworms are very active in our area. With lots of early-planted corn and good growing conditions, CRW populations may be quite large this year. This will set us up for potentially severe rootworm damage in 2006.



Western CRW Female



Western CRW Male



Northern CRW

Know your corn rootworms, Julie Stavisky, NYS IPM. Rootworm adults are emerging in droves from cornfields. They are most often observed in the silks of developing ears. Here's a review of how to identify the adult rootworms:

Western corn rootworm (WCRW) adults are black and yellow beetles that are approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long. The female is yellowish with 3 black stripes on its back, while the male is solid black with a pale yellow area at the tip of its abdomen (see photos). Northern corn rootworm is slightly smaller than the western, and it is bright green in color (see photo).

The **northern corn rootworm (NCRW)** used to be the predominant species in New York State, but since the arrival of the western in the 1980's, the western has become the dominant species. When scouting, 1 western corn rootworm equals 2 northern corn rootworm adults. During pollination, developing ears can tolerate many rootworms feeding on silks without suffering economic losses.

Corn Rootworm Scouting Tip (Are They Gravid?), Ken Wise, NYS IPM, Remember, when taking beetle counts you are monitoring to assess the potential that CRW's will lay enough eggs in the field to cause damage to next year's corn crop. Taking beetle counts is important but make sure you stop to check a portion of the female western CRW's for the actual presence of eggs. Squeeze the abdomens of the yellow and black striped CRW's and look for the small yellow - white eggs. It takes CRW about three weeks from the time the adult beetles emerge from the soil and mate until the time the females are gravid. In this time period you may find high CRW numbers in a field but since the females are not yet capable of laying eggs they are not causing an economic problem. This is the reasoning behind sampling the same field 2-3 times before making the management decision. Being pollen feeders and highly mobile, CRW's may relocate to another pollinating field during the 3 week period. Comparing the two types of fields, the second field is at greater risk from subsequent CRW damage since females (and their eggs) will have matured and are ready for deposit.

When is the best time to control corn rootworm if a field exceeds the action threshold?

The following year!

If there is a field over the action threshold what are the options for control next season?

-The best option to control corn rootworm is crop rotation. Corn after corn is prime habitat for

corn rootworm and will increase infestations from year to year.

-Crop rotation is not always possible so, the second management option is the use of a soil-applied insecticide at planting. To select an insecticide registered for corn rootworm, please consult the Cornell Guide for Integrated Field Crop Management.

-Additional CRW management technologies are now available. You can use insecticide treated seed to control moderate populations of corn rootworm infestations.

-You can also use Bt hybrids now for CRW.

Grasses: Grass condition is variable. I have seen some ugly orchardgrass that had our usual summer disease. I think that it is flea beetles that are doing light feeding on reed canarygrass, leaving whitish streaks on the leaves. Even though there are lots of grasshoppers about, I have seen very little feeding damage.

Pasture: Pastures have been lush this summer, although they may be slowing down now unless we get another shot of rain. Just a reminder since it was recently brought to my attention, when you install locust fence posts (or cedar), remove the bark. Bark that remains on the post will make it rot faster.

VEGETABLES

New Pesticide Registrations, NY 2005

Christy Hoepting, Cornell Vegetable Program

Assail 70WP Insecticide (acetaprid). Supplemental Label registered for use in potato for control of Colorado Potato Beetle, leafhoppers and aphids.

Cabrio Fungicide (pyraclostrobin). Registered on head, stem and leafy green Brassicas, bulb vegetables (i.e. onions), carrots, cucurbits, leafy vegetables (i.e. spinach), leaves of root and tuber vegetables, eggplant, pepper, root vegetables and tomato for several disease see labels for details. Note a supplemental label for Cabrio on brassicas.

Calisto Herbicide. Weed control in sweet corn.

Endura Fungicide (boscalid). Registered on head, stem and leafy green Brassicas, bulb vegetables (i.e. onions), carrots, dry and succulent beans, leafy vegetables (i.e. spinach), eggplant, lettuce, pepper, potato, root vegetables and tomato for several diseases see labels for details.

Previcur Flex. Registered for control of downy mildew in cucurbits and lettuce. Previously labeled for control of late blight in potatoes and tomatoes).

Pendant Herbicide (pendimethalin). This is Agri Solutions version of Prowl 3.3 EC. In addition to field crops, it is labeled in corn, onions, potatoes and edible beans.

Scala SC Fungicide (pyrimidinamine). Registered for control of Botrytis leaf blight and purple blotch in onions.

Pristine Fungicide (pyraclostrobin + boscalid). Registered on bulb vegetables (i.e. onions), carrots and cucurbits for several diseases see labels for details. Note there is a supplemental label for Pristine in cucurbits.

Tanos Fungicide (cymoxanil and famoxadone). FIFRA 2ee for use on cucurbits (bacterial fruit blotch), potatoes (brown spot), and tomatoes (bacterial canker).

Legumes: Hot weather has caused **poor set for beans** this summer. Beans are sensitive to heat and moisture stress as they flower and set fruit. Temperatures between 79 and 82 degrees F will

cause the plants to have a lower pod weight with fewer seeds per pod making it difficult to schedule picking. Cooler night temperatures will help alleviate this problem. We are also seeing **sunscald** on leaves due to intense sun and high humidity.

Solanaceae: Fair amount of problems with tomatoes. Several growers are having **problems with fruit set**, few flowers, no little tomatoes. Also in greenhouse tomatoes we are seeing **sunscald**. Shade cloth will help alleviate this problem in the greenhouse. We have seen some **blossom-end rot** in tomatoes and peppers. Blossom-end rot is caused by a calcium deficiency. Excessive nitrogen fertilization and drastic fluctuations in moisture can aggravate the problem. Tomatoes and peppers grown on black plastic with drip irrigation may need as much as 3 hours per day of water especially at the beginning of the bearing season.

A small leaf sample from potatoes coming from Steuben County was confirmed to have **late blight** (US-8). Scouts from the local area found a single leaf and could not find evidence of further disease after intensive scouting. (as reported by Dr. Tom Zitter).

Ornamentals: Lots of spider mite damage. The continued high temperatures really encourage an explosion of these pests. We have seen mite damage on all kinds of woody and herbaceous plants, especially container grown plants. Miticides are the most appropriate, just be sure your target plant is on the label.

Loads of **Fungal Leaf Spots** on perennials. Most of the ones that I have seen are **Alternaria, Cercospora or Septoria**. Cercospora tend to look almost like damage from four lined plant bug – they are very distinct round lesions with a halo around the outside. These diseases thrive in the warm humid conditions that we have and may indicate a border that needs to be thinned and divided. Fungicides will be very helpful to reduce overall inoculum from a long disease season.

Sincerely,

Aaron D. Gabriel
Extension Resource Educator
Crops and Soils