



Washington County
415 Lower Main Street
Hudson Falls NY 12839-2629

Tel: 518 746-2560
800 548-0881
Fax: 518 746-2419
E-mail: washington@cornell.edu
www.cce.cornell.edu/washington

Washington County Ag Report June 28, 2005

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

Quote

“Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do, and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.” -- George S. Patton

[This quote has some good truth to it, but use your common sense in the dangerous and complex profession of agriculture. AG]

Announcements

Tuesday, July 5 - 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - High Tunnels: What do they offer the Fresh Market Farmer? This meeting will be held at Ted and Jan Blomgren's Wind Flower Farm, 585 Meeting House Road, Valley Falls. The Blomgren's have several different styles of hoopouses and experience growing a wide variety of crops in them. They will also be reporting on results of a SARE grant on cut flower quality in hoopouses. If you would like to join a local farmer to farmer group for a potluck, arrive with a dish to share at 5:30 p.m. For directions and to let us know that you are coming, please contact our office at 746-2560.

Wednesday, July 6 - 9:30 - 12 noon - Weed Control Field Day - at Cornell's Valatie Research Farm, State Farm Rd., Valatie in Columbia County. View and discuss various weed control experiments with Russ Hahn: no-till burn down and weed control in corn; pre-emergent and post-emergent crabgrass control; ragweed control; Roundup Ready corn with reduced rates of residual herbicides. AG

July 6 - Cornell Potato Field Day, Thompson Vegetable Crops Research Farm, Freeville, NY. Observe yield trials, an insecticide-free plot and seed multiplication blocks. Project goals, in addition to finding high yielding varieties adapted for NYS, are developing lines resistant to the golden nematode, scab, late blight, insect and virus problems. See a demonstration on tissue culture for seed propagation. Empire State Potato Growers, Inc. is sponsoring this field day. **This meeting and lunch is FREE**, we just ask that you RSVP to Don Halseth at 607-255-5460 or e-mail deh3@cornell.edu for help in estimating bus and meal needs.

Sun - Tues, July 17-19 - New York State Maple Tour, Batavia. For more information go to <http://maple.dnr.cornell.edu/> or give us a call and we can send you the registration information. Registration is due by June 24th.

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	0.02	0.64	0.00	0.76	0.15	0.47	0.00	0.58
So far this month	3.79	2.95	2.75	3.46	5.19	3.39	3.02	1.57
Total since April 1 st	9.29	9.22	8.37	10.04	11.82	10.02	9.35	6.56
GDD Base 41 Growing Degree Days = [hi temp + low temp]/2 – 41								
Past Week	225	215	219	213	246	228	220	200
Since April 1 st	1400	1370	1456	1449	1739	1583	1488	1425
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	152	145	146	142	169	157	149	133
Since April 1 st	956	915	1017	996	1141	1058	1063	987

Midwest Commodity Prices - from the Wall Street Journal

Corn per bushel	\$2.04/bu	Cotton Seed Meal per ton	\$150/ton
Soybean per bushel	7.69/bu	Corn Gluten Feed	49/ton
Hominy Feed per ton	44/ton	Wheat, soft white	3.83/bu
48% Soybean meal per ton	216/ton	Tallow per pound	/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.

Trading Post

Advertising accepted in accordance with rules of Cornell Cooperative Extension and subject to final determination of acceptability by the Executive Director. Advertising space is limited to subscribers only.

For Rent – 150 freestall barn on 103 acres with flat barn milking system. Greenwich 695-9252.

For Sale – Hay – square bales available, delivery may be arranged. Call for more information. Greenwich 810-4863.

Position Announcement: Project Coordinator for the Farm To Chef Express Project

Farm to Chef Express (FCX) is a direct marketing and distribution link between farmers of Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Washington Counties and New York City chefs. FCX goals are to help farmers sell their products to chefs and help chefs source food from the farms. Farmers are marketing distinctive, delicious, exceedingly fresh meats, produce, and cheeses from their farms directly to the kitchen doors of City chefs.

The Project Coordinator (PC) educates all participants about FCX, coordinates the orders for delivery, and manages the efforts, which facilitate the entire network of relationships. The position is funded through a NYS Ag and Markets FAID grant. Position is a temporary, part time 20-hour a week position for approximately 24 weeks. The intent is for the position to continue under the new business entity of FCX. For more information about FCX and the job description visit www.farmtochefexpress.org. Resumes are due July 8, 2005 to Paula J. Schafer at the CCE Washington County office. Call 518-746-2560 or email to pjb11@cornell.edu for questions.

AG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Market and sell your food products through Farm to Chef Express (FCX) project. Producers with meats, fruits, vegetables, cheeses, and much more are encouraged to participate in the project and sell your products to NYC chefs. Chefs are looking for locally grown farm products from you. FCX helps you market it to them, coordinates the orders, and hires a driver to deliver to the chef's door. Start up cost is \$40 up front, with additional \$60 after you sell \$500 of your product. Participants will pay 7 ½ % of their weekly sales towards the delivery costs. Visit www.farmtochefexpress.org for information or call Paula Schafer.

The Battenkill Kitchen, Inc. (BKI) is a shared use kitchen located at the Historic Salem Courthouse in Salem and is now open for producers, individuals, and local growers to create, process, and package food products.

This NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets approved site can be rented out on an hourly basis, minimizing the start-up expenses for farmers looking to extend their season through value-added offerings, small businesses looking to launch a food product, and regional community organizations requiring a commercially equipped kitchen to process products for individual use or retail sale.

The Battenkill Kitchen is located at the Historic Salem Courthouse on 58 East Broadway in Salem. For further information about joining BKI (memberships start at \$5.00), or about renting the facility for food production, call Will Lennon, BKI president at 518.854.3095 or visit www.aedpws.org and click on The Battenkill Kitchen, Inc.

DAIRY NOTES:

Animal Feeding Operation Air Agreement Signup Period Extended

EPA is extending the deadline for the signup period for the Animal Feeding Operation Air Compliance Agreement to July 29, 2005, in order to provide more time for operators of animal feeding facilities to make informed decisions about participation. The Agreement addresses emissions from certain animal feeding operations, also known as AFOs. EPA will continue to reach out to the agricultural community during this time. The extension also will be published in the Federal Register. The Agency has not changed the Agreement since it was published in the Federal Register Jan. 31, 2005. This Agreement is part of the Agency's ongoing effort to

minimize air emissions from such operations and to ensure that they comply with the Clean Air Act and other laws. The period for public comment on the Agreement ended May 2, 2005. (Also see [Response to Public Comments on the Animal Feeding Operation Air Compliance Agreement](#).) The deadline for AFO operators to sign the Agreement was originally extended until July 1 and will now close on July 29. For more information on the Agreement and how to sign up, see [Agreement Signup Instructions](#). For forms or more information, call the office or go to the EPA Website <http://epa.gov/compliance/resources/agreements/caa/cafo-agr-0501.html>

FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Make sure that you are adjusting your budgets for the year (or at least your thinking). The latest announcement confirming BSE being found in a native U.S. born cow has the potential for substantial implications to the price of beef as well as the milk industry. It is possible that people have heard enough research and will react calmly, but one can't assume how it will be perceived. This will have an effect on our animal markets as well as product movement.

LIVESTOCK PEST MANAGEMENT: We are in our second heat wave and June is not over yet. Heat increases fly populations. Heat and flies stress cattle. Fortunately, conditions are a bit dry, which can slow fly development in outside breeding areas. However, (continue to) implement fly management practices. There is still a lot of summer remaining and **we need to prevent flies from getting out of control.**

CROPS

Soil Health: For deep tillage to be effective, you want to crack and shatter the soil. This happens when the soil is sufficiently dry. Rotations with small grains give you an opportunity to use deep tillage during the summer, after grain harvest, when conditions are usually dry and effective for deep tillage.

Beneficial Insects: Natural enemy populations are at a critical population growth stage of increasing rapidly. In the field, there are adults, eggs, and immature natural enemies. The heat will shorten the generation time. Monitor pest and beneficial insect populations closely to see if the beneficials populations can prevent pest outbreaks (especially aphids). The other day on my mailbox, I noticed a dead caterpillar hanging like a sac of fluid. It obviously caught a viral or bacterial disease. If you keep a look out, you will get to see interesting things like this.

Alfalfa: Hot and dry is a **potato leafhopper's** favorite conditions. Nymphs will be increasing. Remember that the damage is done before you see sick plants. Scout alfalfa for PLH with a sweep net (available from Nasco or other farm supply catalogs). If you apply manure to alfalfa after harvest, do it within two days, since damage will occur if there is any regrowth.

White Clover: There is a fairly new pest of white clover called the clover stem weevil. You can find its damage in the field now. Ken Wise gives us this description: [**Ischnopterapion virens:**](#) I discovered many tiny blue weevils called [**Ischnopterapion virens**](#) in a clover field at SUNY Cobleskill. This weevil is native to Europe and is



relatively new to the United States. Adults are metallic blue, about 3/16 inches long, with a distinctive snout and straight antennae. Adults make small circular holes in leaves of white clover. Larvae tunnel in the runners of clover and stems of red clover. The economic damage status of this weevil is not known.

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Field Corn: Corn has loved this heat, but we are a little dry. Some corn is water stressed. European corn borer also love hot humid nights for laying eggs. I noticed quite a bit of ECB feeding in one field this week. There is nothing to do for it now – hybrid selection is our main defense. This year’s ECB population will give us no clues about next year.

Corn is getting past V5 stage and 30 inches tall. There is only a small selection of post-emergent herbicides to clean up weeds. You should check fields for problems like bindweed, cucumber, foxtails, nutsedge. Nutsedge is now developing the little root nutlets, which will sprout next year. It is critical to control nutsedge by late June. A word of caution; corn under stress is more susceptible to herbicide injury. So be careful in using post-emergent herbicides. Evaluate the weed pressure and corn growth – how much yield will be sacrificed to weeds and what is the herbicide cost?

Grasses: How much phosphorus and potassium are applied with a 3,000-gallon topdressing of liquid manure? On average, there are 13 lbs. of P_2O_5 and 24 lbs. of K_2O in 1,000 gallons. So, in 3,000 gallons you are applying 39 lbs. P_2O_5 and 72 lbs. K_2O per acre. A 4-ton yield of grass (dry matter) will remove about 60 lbs. of P_2O_5 and 240 lbs. of K_2O . With a little math, it would take 5,000 gal of manure to supply the removed phosphorus and 10,000 gallons to supply the removed potassium in one year.

Pasture: Now is a critical time to mow some weeds, since they are flowering but have not yet set seed.

VEGETABLES

Landscape: Flea Beetles have been damaging rudbeckia in landscape and in cut flower fields. They can make a mess out of leaves and flowers if left unchecked. Possible **verticillium wilt** in Shasta Daisy. One side of the plants seem to wilt, some chlorosis in lower leaves on same side. When stem is removed there is some purplish streaking that almost looks like borer damage. Remove affected tissue promptly.

If you manage landscapes with **scale insects** you are well aware of the difficulties of controlling this pest. There are many different species of scale insects with similar characteristics we need to understand for proper management. Adult females are wingless, often legless and unable to move. The adult males have a single pair of wings, no mouthparts and do not feed; they are often mistaken for small gnats or parasitic wasps. Adult females produce a protective covering and are firmly attached to the host while feeding. Eggs are deposited under the scale and emerge as the season warms in the spring. The young that emerge are called “crawlers”; this is the motile stage of the insect. This stage, also known as the first instar stage, is important to recognize for treatment. Timing of treatment is critical, as this is the most vulnerable stage of these highly specialized insects. Double sided sticky tape applied to twigs infested with scale

can be used to detect and monitor crawler activity. The value of finding crawlers early is that horticultural oil or insecticidal soap can be a very effective treatment eliminating the need to resort to stronger pesticides.

Armored scales are probably the most economically important group to ornamentals. There are over 1,700 species of this group worldwide. These scales do not produce honeydew, as they are not sap feeders. Examples of common members in this family include **euonymus scale, juniper scale, oystershell and pine needle scale**.

Soft scales do produce honeydew causing black sooty mold growth on this sugar-rich substrate, attracting other sweet feeding insects. Over 1,000 species are found worldwide. Lady beetles, lacewings, chalcidoid wasps, lepidopteran larvae, birds and others are natural enemies to this pest. Examples of common species include **magnolia scale, Fletcher scale, calico and European fruit lecanium scale**.

Gall-like scales mostly feed on oaks. Mature adults are globular, hard shelled and sap feeders producing large quantities of honeydew. An example of this family is the northern red oak **kermes scale**.

Watch the growing degree-days for treatment recommendation times. For many species there is a spring and fall “window” of time to eliminate these crawlers and gain control of this difficult pest. (From Growing Trends Newsletter, CCE Capital District)

Greenhouse: Aria insecticide is now registered in NY. It is labeled as a spray for use in greenhouses (REI 12 hrs) and interiorscapes to control aphids, thrips (suppression only in flowers), whiteflies (suppression of silverleaf only), and mealybugs. The NY label does not include drench uses. There are no outdoor and no vegetable uses on this label. The active ingredient is flonicamid. The label includes a caution about phytotoxicity to some pansy cultivars. In the form of marinal chloriosis. If spraying pansies, do a small-scale test or use another product.

The end of June is fast approaching signaling the beginning of the **fall mum** crop. Each of the mum suppliers have excellent instructions for producing a mum crop, but as always your judgment as the grower is of key importance. When your cuttings arrive be sure to unpack them immediately and keep them in a fairly cool (but not cold) environment. They should be potted up as soon as possible. Mums suffer badly if they dry out so be sure to stick the cuttings into moist media. Maintaining adequate (but not excessive) moisture is of key importance throughout the crop production cycle. Night temperatures below 70 degrees can cause mums to set flower buds early so be on the lookout for this. Many growers are starting mums later than in the past to lessen the likelihood of cold night temperatures.

Once the plants are well rooted start fertilizing heavily with nitrogen but try to minimize the phosphorus which research has shown contributes to stretching of the plant. Remember, mums are heavy feeders and time with inadequate nutrients early in production will be reflected by poor quality when the crop is finishing.

From the pest management standpoint keep a sharp eye out for **aphids, leafhoppers** and **thrips**. Aphids have been especially common this year on other crops so be sure to keep a close eye on your mums. If your mum field is adjacent to a grassy area strive to keep the grass mowed short since short grass provides less habitat for insects that might enjoy dining on your mums. (Adapted from Growing Trends Newsletter, CCE Capital District Horticulture Program)

Vegetables: Air pollutant ozone injury was seen in Long Island recently. Even though we do not have a routine incidence of this, the current hot, humid weather can often result in certain fields near heavily trafficked roads experiencing damage. Injury on cucurbits typically consists of small white spots resembling injury caused by fertilizer burn or drift from a herbicide like paraquat. Bronzing occurs on leaves of beans, potatoes and tomatoes. Symptoms typically occur on mid-aged leaves because they were most actively respiring at the time of the high ozone event. Symptoms are less likely to occur on plants with inadequate water because their stomates usually are closed during the afternoon when ozone typically is at its highest concentration. (Description of symptoms from LI Fruit and Vegetable Update)

Colorado Potato Beetle are still a major problem although most growers are watching them and tend to not take it lightly. The other pest problem is **potato leafhopper**. This pest will cause leaf bronzing so severe that the plant is essentially defoliated. Also, check any remaining potato cull piles for signs of **late blight**. This potential inoculum source should be buried a minimum of 2 feet.

Up to 10% loss in **recently transplanted peppers** was observed last week on several farms in Western NY after some heavy rain. Culturing did not indicate a fungal or bacterial cause. The peppers had been set during the very hot weather prior to the rain. Information from the University of Florida describes what was observed as **stem "scalding" or heat girdling**. The outward appearance is an inching in of the stem just above (but not touching) the plastic mulch that is usually discolored light brown. The stem eventually collapses completely. The damage may occur within hours of transplanting but the plants may survive for several days before finally dying. In a trial at the U of Florida "plants set at 11 am and 1 p.m. exhibited 40% and 25% heat girdling respectively compared to 3 % and 8 % for plants set at 9 am and 3 p.m. In theory, plants set well before or well after the noonday sun was able to adjust their water usage to minimize heat girdling. For a more complete description and photos go to <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/scripts/HS108>. (This information was received from the PestMinder newsletter of the Western NY Vegetable Team. We have seen similar problems here in our area as well.)

John Mishenac of the Eastern Vegetable IPM program has been **seeing diamond back larvae** on the undersides of broccoli and cauliflower. Depending on where your transplants originated, you may have resistance to conventional control products as well as Bt's. There is a high level of resistance found in plants that were grown down south. If you are using locally grown transplants, there is a good chance you will still be able to control the larvae with Bt's (Biobit, Dipel, Javelin, etc).

Lots of problems with **weed escapes**. One particular problem was with **Quackgrass** in fresh market sweet corn, which is almost impossible to legally control with herbicides. Accent can be

used in processing varieties only. It is a much easier situation when trying to control escaped **broadleaf weeds** in sweet corn. Some options are Basagran, Callisto, Aim, and Permit. For escapes in vine crops consider Sandea for pumpkins and winter squash, and Select/Poast for grasses.

Sincerely,

Aaron D. Gabriel
Extension Resource Educator
Crops and Soils

To: Farm/Livestock Owner

From:

John F. Bowe
Extension Community Educator

Cornell Cooperative Extension is sending you this survey for two purposes; the first is to gather information about what services and supplies would be needed in the rare occurrence of natural/man-made disaster. The second is to gather information that can better help the residents of Washington County find livestock and animal related services. The information needed for both these purposes is very closely related.

Many folks have spent time recently thinking about what they would do about their family if another tragedy like September 11 befall us. However, many people failed to think about what would become of their livestock and pets. You are being asked to specifically think about a plan for them at this time.

Please take ten minutes or so to fill out the enclosed survey. The information will be kept confidential. Your responses will be shared only with participating members of the County Animal Response Team (CART). If you receive duplicate copies of this survey, please respond only once.

The information that we are gathering could be the deciding factor in whether your farm or even your pet is saved during a disaster. Remember that this is not only about what you would do, but also how you could help others that might need your farm, your equipment, or your time.

Thank you for taking the time.

Farmer/Livestock Owner Survey

1) What type of farm are you? (Check all that apply)

Dairy___ Sheep___ Goat___ Beef___ Horse___ Swine___

2) How many of the following animals do you have? (list all your animals here)

Dairy Cattle	_____	Beef Cattle	_____
Sheep	_____	Horse	_____
Goat	_____	Swine	_____
Pet cats	_____	Dogs	_____

3) What breeds of the following animals do you have? (list all your breeds or crossbreed here)

Dairy Cattle	_____	Beef Cattle	_____
Sheep	_____	Horse	_____
Goat	_____	Swine	_____
Cats	N/A_____	Dogs	_____

4) Do you have a livestock trailer to handle your animals?

Yes___ No___

5) What is the capacity of your livestock trailer? (how many of the largest animal you have can it handle)

1-2___ 3-5___ 5-10___ 10-15___ 15-20___ >20___

6) If an emergency were to occur, do you have a plan of how to have your animals cared for?

Yes___ No___

7) Do you have capacity to store enough feed/water for your livestock if for 2-3 weeks the outside sources were cut off?

Yes___ No___

8) Do you have a location where the animals could be shipped to if you had to vacate your farm?

Yes___ No___

9) Does that include your pets? (In an emergency, evacuated persons cannot take their pets to a shelter)

10) Would you be willing to host another farm's animals if an emergency were to occur?

Yes _____

No _____

11) Do you have portable livestock pens/panels at your farm?

Yes _____

No _____

12) What type of housing would be able to provide for these animals?

Pasture (with barb or electric fencing) _____ Drylot _____ Tie-stall _____ Free-stall _____

Horse stalls _____ Sheep/goat pasture (woven or page wire fencing) _____ General Barn _____

13) Do you have a generator to power equipment (like milkers, well pumps, etc.) if the power were to fail?

Yes _____

No _____

14) Do you routinely start and run your generator UNDER load?

Yes _____

No _____

15) Do you direct market any of your animal's products? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, where do you market?

Farm to Chef Express _____ Local Farmer's Markets _____ Direct to consumer _____

Farmstand _____ Other _____

16) Are you willing to provide your full name and address to help us complete the collection of important information? Please use the 911 address so that you can be located in an emergency.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____

Telephone: _____

Cell phone: _____

E-mail: _____

17) Would you be willing to allow a staff member to come to your farm to take a GPS (Global Positioning System) location reading? (to use on emergency response maps)

Yes _____

No _____