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Checking the Back Forty

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Weekly Growing Degree Days and Rainfall thru August 14, 2011

	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days (GDD) (Base 50°F)					Precipitation (Inches since 4/1/2011)			
Station	High	Low	Avg	Departure from normal	Week of August 8-14	Since May 8	Departure from normal	Since May 22	Departure from normal	Week	Departure from normal	Season	Departure from normal
Cobleskill	83	51	68	2	131	1632	279	1539	266	0.23	-0.54	19.84	3.66
Morrisville	83	52	68	2	127	1618	324	1510	293	0.95	0.18	18.85	2.88
Norwich	84	50	68	2	129	1652	298	1525	253	0.42	-0.32	24.81	8.76
Oneonta	87	50	68	3	130	1639	383	1527	343	0.78	-0.06	25.45	7.87

From the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service New York Field Office and the New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
Weekly accumulations are through 7:00 AM Sunday Morning

We are tracking Growing Degree Days (GDD) during the season using 50°F as a base temperature. There will be two dates of reference for these GDDs, May 8 and May 23, 2011. Rainfall accumulation will be from April 1 on.

It is the middle of August and time to assess your corn's maturity coming into corn silage harvest. I have been relaying that we need about 1950-2100 GDD to get us from planting to harvest, depending on relative maturity of the hybrid. If you were able to plant corn the week of May 8 then there is reason to believe you will be harvesting corn silage the middle of September without much problem if we continue to have 100+ GDD weeks. Right now the corn planted May 22 is about one week behind the May 8 corn in GDDs. What I haven't been showing for a lack of space in previous issues is the GDDs based on a June 6, 2011 planting date which may be more realistic for some farms. As of August 14 there have been 1317 GDDs for a June 6 planting date averaged across the 4 locations and there wasn't a lot of variations across sites. That puts corn planted on June 6 to be harvested the first week of October if we can sustain 100 GDD weeks.

Average September Growing Degree Days (GDDs) for the week of:

Week	Average GDDs
Aug 30-Sept 5	84
Sept 6-12	75
Sept 13-19	67
Sept 20-26	37

We may get close to 100 GDDs per week until the beginning of September but after that GDDs are tough to come by. Going back to last years crop reports I was able to generate on average the GDDs we can expect from end of August into September. The GDDs become less on average as you go later in to the month of September. Although the later planted corn will have a challenge to be mature even for corn silage we need to be thankful for the heat we did receive because imagine how far it would be without it.

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Heat and Drought Stress

In our region there are certainly the extremes of weather from too wet early to at times within the past few weeks too hot and dry. The rolling of corn leaves like that at right is certainly evidence that is it is under drought stress. Corn at this stage just prior to through just after silking and tasseling is at a critical stage and yield loss can be significant. One way to summarize the effects of drought stress is to realize that a great deal of cell division and growth takes place during these growth stages of corn and water is a vital component of that process. Without water it is more difficult if not impossible for that cell division to take place. Typically corn will either not pollinate or if pollination does take place kernels may actually abort. You may also see smaller ear size.

Also you may see soybeans show stress symptoms as a leaf curling or crinkling. There is no doubt that injury from the plant growth regulator (PGR) herbicides, like 2,4-D and dicamba can certainly produce these symptoms on soybean plants. This injury is typical of when there is drift from a near by corn field or if a spray tank does not get entirely cleaned out. However there does seem to be instances where there were no PGR type herbicides involved but there may have been other post-emergence translocated herbicides and stress conditions and these same symptoms appear. There may be other fields where no post-emergence herbicides were involved and still the crinkling takes place. Remember PGR herbicides are like naturally occurring plant hormones (auxins) so it could be that the soybean plants themselves are producing these symptoms under stress conditions. There does not appear to be yield loss from these stress symptoms beyond any injury from the environmental stress itself.

References:

Soybeans appearing puckered or crinkled following high temperatures
Vince M. Davis, Cropping Systems Weed Scientist and Extension Specialist
University of Wisconsin Crop Manager, Volume 18 Number 20, July 28, 2011
http://ipcm.wisc.edu/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=zgOg96wuaUY%3D&tabid=114&mid=669

Leaf cupping and wrinkling in soybeans
Mark Loux, C.O.R.N. Newsletter 2011-24
http://corn.osu.edu/newsletters/2011/2011-24/#4

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Winning the Game Session 2: Post Harvest 2011 Grain Marketing
Tally-Ho Restaurant, State Route 20, Richfield Springs
Wednesday, August 31, 2011 10 AM to 3 PM

If you have had the opportunity to attend Session 1 which covered Pre-Harvest grain marketing strategies some time in the past two years attend this session covers putting together a plan for marketing grain you will harvest this fall. And if you did not attend the first session on pre-harvest marketing, don't worry sign up anyway, you can take the sessions in reverse order.

John Berry, Regional Ag Marketing Specialist from Penn State Cooperative Extension brings his considerable experience conducting this workshop and working with grain growers to develop marketing plans to our area. There is no doubt starting a pre-harvest marketing plan can be a challenge, but this workshop is filled with practical, easy-to-execute advice to help you secure a good average price for your crop.

The cost is $20 person and we need to have reservations by August 26.
To sign up call the 315-866-7920.