

Checking the Back Forty



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Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, August 26, 2012

As of the week ending August 26 corn continues to be ahead for GDDs and it looks as if we continue to be on target to begin corn silage harvest over the next week for early planted corn fields. We need in the range of 1950 to 2100 GDDs (early maturing to later maturing hybrids) to arrive at silage harvest and it looks like the time has arrived. Soil moisture is a factor for whole plant dry matter so if you are in an area with less rainfall you may actually find a whole plant dry matter higher than you might expect for the maturity of the corn. It is probably time to check the chopper anyway so get a sample from the field and run a dry matter check.

As I emphasized in the last edition please do not read this as a call to rush to harvest, more of a call to be checking fields and not be taken by surprise. I also urge you check your fields to

Table 1. Growing Degree Days

| Station | Temperature (°F) | | | | Growing Degree Days (GDD)-Base 50°F | | | | | | |
|-------------|------------------|-----|-----|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| | High | Low | Avg | Departure from normal | Week of August 26 | Since April 22, 2012 | Departure from normal | Since May 7, 2012 | Departure from normal | Since May 20, 2012 | Departure from normal |
| Cobleskill | 82 | 48 | 66 | 1 | 110 | 1964 | 369 | 1938 | 379 | 1820 | 338 |
| Morrisville | 85 | 49 | 66 | 3 | 115 | 1803 | 281 | 1761 | 272 | 1661 | 246 |
| Norwich | 87 | 46 | 65 | 1 | 110 | 1957 | 360 | 1908 | 349 | 1798 | 318 |
| Oneonta | 86 | 48 | 67 | 5 | 122 | 2094 | 619 | 2039 | 595 | 1910 | 535 |

Table 2. Rainfall Data

| Station | Precipitation (Inches) 1/ | | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| | Week | Departure from normal | Season | Departure from normal |
| Cobleskill | 0.76 | -0.06 | 14.62 | -2.94 |
| Morrisville | 0.15 | -0.69 | 16.01 | -1.40 |
| Norwich | 0.47 | -0.32 | 16.7 | -0.70 |
| Oneonta | 0.03 | -0.81 | 15.11 | -3.93 |

know the amount yield loss you have due to drought stress. I have a concern that growers are seeing fields green up because of recent rains but have not checked on ear size or even the size of plants to get a handle on yield. If you are to going to budget how much forage you have to support your feed needs get to the field and check out what have.

From the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service New York Field Office and the New York Department of Agriculture and Markets

1/ Season accumulations are for April 1st to date. Weekly accumulations are through 7:00 AM Sunday Morning

Continued.....

Thoughts on Corn Silage Harvest Date

Dr. William J. Cox, Department of Crop and Soil Science, Cornell University

Editors Note: This is an email Bill sent out to extension educators on Monday, August 27. K.H.G.

We harvested our 85-100 day material last Wednesday (8/22) at Aurora and hybrids less than 95 day RM were below 65% moisture and those from 95-100 day about 65-66% moisture. The Aurora site was planted on 4/20 and no significant rain since August 12th or so (missed the August 14-15th rain) so stalks were pretty dry. We harvested the 100-115 day hybrids today and most seemed to be in the 63-68% range but will know the exact values last Wednesday.

So if your region doesn't get too much rain out of today's or tonight's storm, be on the look-out for when corn silage harvest should occur. It is supposed to be upper 80s and low 90s late this week, which can reduce moisture by ½ point or more per day. From Wednesday of last week until this morning, it looks like our hybrids lost at least 3 points in moisture.

Aurora has warm nights and we planted early so most sites are probably not as far along. But it could go quick if we don't pick up much rain over the next 10 days or so (let's hope that we do for the sake of the soybean crop that probably dropped a few bushels/acre in yield over the last 4-5 days).

Corn diseases are present

Corn diseases are here but certainly not as prevalent as last year. Northern Corn Leaf Blight has shown up with and has been spread by some of the sporadic rain we have been receiving. As we get into August we have more mornings of heavy dew and fogs that keep leaf surfaces moist, ideal for disease development. Grey Leaf Spot still seems to be most prevalent in fields with a lot of corn residue from the year before. Northern Leaf Spot seems to show up on a more regular basis but is not clear how much if any damage is done from it.

Northern Corn
Leaf Blight
(NCLB)



Grey Leaf Spot
(GLS)



Northern Leaf Spot
(NLS)

