I sent out a Checking The Back 40 in early July with corn planting dates, locations, relative maturity and date one might expect it would be ready for silage harvest. Here is a mid-August update. If you compare that issue of CTBF to this one you will see some locations have actually improved; Bainbridge, Bouckville and Oneonta have improved to 3-11 days earlier in maturity. Most others improved a day or two or even lost a day.

This has been a big turnaround in Growing Degree Days (GDDs) since the early part of the season where in mid to late June we were looking at close to record low GDD accumulations to date. Now in mid-August we are actually closer to the 30 year normal GDDs to date and in some instance closer to the 15 year average which runs higher. We can’t get back the growing season lost by the last start but higher temperatures since have helped.

Table 1
Three planting scenarios and predicted harvest dates to achieve 30-35% DM based on GDDs, planting date and location. Data from August 18, 2019.