



A partnership between Cornell University and CCE Associations in these ten counties: Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

October - December 2025

NWNY Growers are the 2025 NYS Corn and Soybean Contest Champions

The NWNY Team supervises the annual Corn & Soybean Yield Contests sponsored by the NY Corn and Soybean Growers Association. There are cash prizes for the top three corn and soybean yields in the state and plaques for the top place winners in each of five designated regions (West, Finger Lakes, Central, North and East). The team has the privilege of emceeing the awards ceremony each year. It is a great opportunity to promote corn and soybean production in our region and NY.

2025 was a very tough year for growers as extreme drought and heat drastically reduced soybean and corn yields. Despite these conditions and low entry numbers across the state, growers from the NWNY region made us proud and took the top three places in the corn and soybean contests. Swede Farms from Pavilion in Wyoming County was this year's corn champion at 311.25 bushels/acre. Pit Farms from Clyde in Wayne County was the soybean champion at 86.53 bushels/acre. For the corn contest, Triple H Farms from Geneseo, Genesee County, placed second at 297.67 bu/acre and Reed Farms from Savannah, Wayne County, came in third at 284.83 bu/acre. Triple H Farms also took second in the soybean contest at 84.59 bu/acre and Greenwell Farms from Hilton, Monroe County, took third with 82.86 bu/acre.

The yield contests are an opportunity for farmers to push their practices to the limits, experiment a little, learn a little and enjoy some friendly competition and bragging rights at the coffee shop. If you would like to see all the regional winners from across the state, check out the results on the NYC&SGA webpage (<https://nycornsoy.org/yield-contest/about-yield-contest>).



Roger Arliss from Pit Farms and Nate Swede from Swede Farms accept the Champion Trophies

What Does the Loss of Neonicotinoid Seed Treatments Mean for NY Growers

New York State has recently passed a law to ban the use of neonicotinoid (neonic) seed treatments on corn and soybean seeds that will go into effect on January 1, 2029. NY will be the first state in the US to pass this legislation. This seed treatment is designed to control below ground pests such as seedcorn maggot wireworms and white grubs. What does the loss of this pest management tool mean for NY corn and soybean growers?

A three-year statewide project led by the Cornell IPM group and funded by the NYS Ag and Markets was established this year. The Team secured 14 farm research sites across the NWNY region for the neonic seed treatment risk assessment project with fields planted to grain corn, silage corn and soybean. This spring, we worked with our cooperators to plant an acre of neonic treated seed next to an acre of untreated seed (no neonic). Throughout the growing season, we measured soil-dwelling insect injury in treated and non-treated seeds and evaluated insects present, seed injury and loss, stand loss, plant biomass and yield.

This data will be used to develop risk assessment tools and better understand the cost and benefits of using untreated seeds over these three years. Overall results of this first year showed that seedcorn maggot damage was low and did not reduce stand count, biomass, or yield in corn and soybeans. This project will continue with these 14 producers for the next two years.



Corn seed treated with a neonic insecticide

Potential buyers and sellers of corn silage seek expected price information to make management decisions. Several years ago, in response to the program's Field Crops Advisory Committee's desire for work on pricing forages, the team developed an empirical pricing model for corn silage to estimate a fall price. The team updates the work annually. In most years, the team reports its pricing corn silage work to its audience in late August through early October via a variety of delivery methods. A conservative estimate of total contacts would be about 300, including duplicate contacts.

Spring 2025 weather conditions led to unfavorable planting, and other conditions. Spring weather caused farm business owners to consider adjustments to cropping programs. Expected price information would help with these early season management decisions. Given the need, the team began generating, and reporting corn silage price in the 2nd quarter of 2025, and shared estimates via the program's Crop Alert report, newsletter, blog, and others. The report went out to about 300 contacts. Interest in estimates continued well into the 4th quarter of 2025, due to unfavorable growing conditions, and the effects on harvested quantities, and quality. In response to these time sensitive needs, the team developed, and delivered timely estimates several times in 2025. Each effort reached an estimated 300 contacts.

Quarters' 2 through 4, 2025 estimates, reflect an update to the data set, and other changes to the statistical model to best capture changes in supply, and demand relationships. Readers of the 2nd quarter Crop Alert item/newsletter article learned that given most recently available data, price analysis for NY suggests an estimated corn silage price of about \$63 per ton for the fall of 2025. Farm business owners apply corn silage price estimates combined with understanding of relevant supply and demand factors from the individual farm business owner's perspective, including local conditions, to achieve better results from their decision making efforts where price information is required.

Regarding the original work, one producer commented, "I think that your work on this will be helpful for many folks." Regarding the updates, producers comment that the work continues to provide information that benefits decision making regarding corn silage prices.