

AG FOCUS



Store hay properly to maintain quality and reduce loss. Photo credited to RJ Anderson

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Options for Hay Storage

Nancy Glazier

Every growing season has challenges when it comes to making hay. Whether bales are small or large bales, proper storage should be considered. Hay loss is unavoidable and can occur when raking, baling, moving, and feeding. The biggest loss – both dry matter and digestibility – occurs with outdoor storage. Dry matter loss can reach 50% depending on the beginning quality, storage conditions and length of storage. It is not always realistic or practical to build a barn to store hay. Here are some tips to minimize waste from outdoor storage.

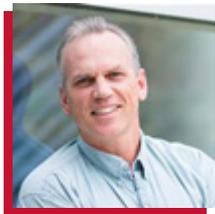
Large bales are a convenient form of hay for one-person operations. These bales can be moved, stored, and fed relatively easily with the right equipment. Tightly wrapped bales tend to shed water better. The outer layer forms a thatch to reduce water infiltration. What helps with shedding precipitation is placing the bales lined up tightly together end to end. Many times, bales are stored along a field edge until ready to be fed, but pick a site that has good ventilation, away from hedgerows and wooded areas. This gives bales a better chance to dry out with air movement. Row spacing of at least 3 feet or more allows for good air flow and sunlight penetration. It is also a good idea to keep vegetation mowed between rows.

Ideally, bales are stored in a barn. At the minimum, get them off the ground. Hay stored directly on the ground may lose up to 12 inches on the bottom of the bales due to wicking action. Find some waste material such as old fence posts, pallets, or tires and place the bales on top. Gravel or stone may work too.

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Options for Hay Storage Cont.

Research conducted by University of Tennessee animal scientists comparing different methods of storing large round bales of grass hay. The hay was cut and baled in June and bales were weighed at the time of harvest and storage. They were weighed again the following January at the time of winter feeding. The following table lists the type of storage and the resulting percentage hay loss.

Losses of Hay Stored using Six Methods of Storage

Type of Storage	Percentage (%) Hay Loss
On ground, no cover	37%
On tires, no cover	29%
On ground, covered	29%
On tires, covered	8%
Net wrap on ground	19%
In barn	6%

Note the difference between storage in the barn vs. on tires and covered. Some small changes can make a big difference! Plastic tarps can be relatively inexpensive when the savings from reducing loss are calculated. Adding tires or gravel can add another big savings. A few changes can make a big difference maintain quality and quantity.



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Features Crop Alerts, Dairy Alerts, Bilingual (Spanish) Resources, Upcoming Events: and more from our team members.

<https://blogs.cornell.edu/nwny-dairy-livestock-field-crops/>



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To sign up, employees can text their name and farm name to (585) 549-0630 on WhatsApp.

Cover Crop Strategies After Corn Silage for Soil Health, Nutrient Capture, and Forage Value

Jodi Letham

Corn silage harvest is underway across Western New York, and as soon as the chopper leaves the field, there is still an opportunity to get something growing that will protect the soil, capture nutrients, and, in the right situations, add forage to your feed inventory. The period from early September through the first week of October is critical for establishing cover crops before frost slows everything down. Right now, we typically have three to six weeks of active growth left in the season, which is enough time to make a real impact if the right species are chosen. Cover crops planted in this window reduce erosion from fall rains and snowmelt, hold onto nitrogen and other nutrients that might otherwise leach, and build soil organic matter while improving infiltration and reducing compaction.

For fast fall growth, weed suppression, and a clean seedbed in spring, I recommend spring oats planted by September 15. They will winterkill and can provide high-quality fall grazing or baleage if seeded early. If you are planting later, winter cereal rye is your most flexible option—it can go in from mid-September into early October and still establish well. Rye excels at scavenging nitrogen and is an excellent fit for “planting green” systems, with American Farmland Trust research showing it can reduce nitrate leaching by up to 36% when paired with no-till.

Winter triticale is another solid option for both soil cover and high-quality spring forage, with best results when seeded between September 10 and 25. For breaking up surface compaction and pulling nutrients from deeper in the soil, I like forage radish or other brassicas seeded by mid-September, often included in oat or rye mixes for diverse rooting.

Multi-species mixes are worth considering, and King’s Agri-Seeds’ research shows they can create a “relay effect,” where fast-growing, winterkilled crops like oats or peas provide quick cover and nutrient uptake in the fall, while overwintering species like rye, triticale, or vetch continue growth into spring. One of my go-to mixes this time of year is a spring pea–oat blend with winter rye, which gives you fall biomass, nitrogen fixation, and spring forage in a single pass. Whenever possible, drill seeds for the best emergence, but broadcasting with light incorporation can still work when time is short. Pairing manure application with cover crop establishment is another win–win, capturing nutrients in plant biomass and keeping them in the field through winter.

Whether your goal is quick cover, spring forage, nutrient capture, or all the above, getting a cover crop in the ground right after silage harvest is one of the easiest ways to protect your soil and set yourself up for a more resilient, productive system next year. If you would like to talk through your options or develop a custom mix for your farm, I am happy to help.

October 23rd 5-7pm Feor Farms Randall Road in Ransomville

Feor Farms is experienced at grazing beef, handling up to 36 animals on pasture. The landowner has had issues with animals damaging pasture during the sometimes wet and muddy fall season. Feor Farms is currently working with Niagara County SWCD on an AEM BMP grant project to construct a heavy use feeding area for round bales, along with a manure management system along the current fencing to keep the cows away from Twelvemile Creek.

Come watch as Feors put their animals on the system for the first time and discuss the how and whys of the project. Also learn more about possible AEM BMP grant opportunities.

For more information or to sign up please contact the

Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District office at 716-434-4949 ext 4

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Nice Toy Hauler
2016 INTERNATIONAL 4300 TOY HAULER CREW CAB; Cummins 325 HP; Allison Auto. Trans.; 14' Flatbed Set Up For Towing; Single Axle; 25,999# GVW; 226" WB; P/W; PDL; P/M; Hands-Free Capable Bluetooth Radio; 60,351 Miles; Stk. # 6941 - \$68,250



Clean Titan
2015 MACK TITAN T0713 w/36" SLEEPER; 605 HP Mack MP10; 18-Spd. Manual Transmission; 18K Front Axle; 46K Locking Rears; Air Ride Susp.; 246" WB; Dual Exhaust & Air Cleaners; 3.91 Ratio; Wetline; 274,608 Miles; Stk. # 6957 - \$93,900



Super Clean
2005 INTERNATIONAL 7600 CAB & CHASSIS; Clean; Double Frame; 370 HP; CAT C11; 20K F/A; 46K Rears On Hendrickson Haulmax Susp.; Diff Lock; 250" WB; 182" CT; 21" of Frame Behind the Cab; 3.94 Ratio; 123,379 Miles; Stk. # 7063 - \$59,500



Heavy Spec
2013 PETERBILT 365 CAB & CHASSIS; Double Frame; 425 HP Cummins ISX12; 8LL Manual Trans.; 18,740# F/A; 46K Full Locking Rears; Air Trac Susp.; Steerable 20K Lift Axle; 322" WB; 24"8" Frame Behind Cab; 236" CT; PTO w/Controls; Frame Sandblasted and Painted; 205,052 Miles; Stk. # 6942 - \$69,500



14K/46K Rears
2014 KENWORTH T880 DAYCAB; 500 HP Paccar MX13; 18-Spd. Manual; 14.6K F/A; 46K Full Locking Rears; Kenworth 8-Bag Air Ride Susp.; 12R22.4 Front Tires; 11R22.5 Rear Tires; 202" WB; 3.91 Ratio; 507,195 Miles; Stk. # 6965 - \$45,000



Low Mile Mixer
2009 INTERNATIONAL PAYSTAR 5600; Cummins 430 HP; Engine Brake; Allison Automatic Trans.; 20K F/A; 65K Rears; Hendrickson Spring; 244" WB; PTO; Double Frame; Supreme 1400T Tailgate Chute; (2) Mixing Augers; Wide Rear Conveyor; 35,054 Miles; Stk. # 6901 - \$94,900



Heavy Spec Chassis
2007 INTERNATIONAL 7600 CAB & CHASSIS; 380 HP CAT C13; 10-Spd. Manual Trans.; Double Frame; 20K F/A; 46K On Hendrickson Spring Susp.; 258" WB; 178" CT; 21"6" Frame Behind Cab; 3.91 Ratio; 82,550 Miles; Stk. # 6743 - \$39,900



24 ft. + Frame
2000 PETERBILT 357 w/KUH KNIGHT VT180 VERTICAL FEED MIXER; Truck Scale System; Cummins ISM (Recent In-Frame Overhaul); Allison Auto. (Reman Weller Trans.); 20K F/A; 46K Rears; 397,000 Miles; 6,889 Hours; Stk. # 6829 - \$72,900



Low Miles
2006 KENWORTH T800 CHASSIS; Heavy Single Frame; 390 HP CAT C13; 13-Spd. Manual; 16K F/A; 46K Full Locking Rears; Air Ride Susp.; 22"6" Frame Behind Cab; 168" CT; 85,554 Miles; Stk. # 6785 - \$49,900



Clean Chassis
2007 WESTERN STAR 6900 CAB & CHASSIS; XD TRI-DRIVE; Double Frame; 490 HP Reman Detroit 14L Engine In 2015; Allison RDS4500 Trans.; 20K F/A; 69K Full Locking Rears; 272" WB; 330" Bridge; 25"6" Frame Behind Cab; Front Engine PTO; 7.17 Ratio; Stk. # 6481 - \$59,450



46K Lockers
2017 PETERBILT 567 DAYCAB; 500+ HP Clean Paccar MX13 Engine; Allison 4500 RDS Auto. Trans.; 12K F/A; 46K Locking Rears; Air Trac Suspension; 206" WB; 4.30 Ratio; Wetline; 462K/521K/567K Miles; Stk. # 6999 - \$56,900



Allison Auto.
2016 PETERBILT 367; Clean; Double Frame Dump Truck w/20" Aluminum Body & Manual Tarp; 44" Sides & 16" Sideboards; Allison Auto. Trans.; Cummins ISX12 Engine; 450 HP; 20K F/A; 52K Full Locking Rears; Chalmers Susp.; 264" WB; 188" C-T 21"10" Frame Behind Cab; PTO, REPTO; Stk. # 7076 - \$72,500



Low Miles
2015 WESTERN STAR 4900SB TRI-DRIVE DUMP TRUCK; Double Frame; 560 HP Eaton DD16; 18-Spd. Manual; 20" Tub Style Steel body; 20K F/A; 57K Full Locking Rears; Plumbed For Pup Trailer; AirLiner Susp. 355,815 Miles; Stk. # 6780 - \$79,900



84,000 Miles
2018 INTERNATIONAL WORKSTAR 7400 DOUBLE FRAMED DELIVERY TRUCK with Roto-Mix 1102-23 RDB (Ration Delivery Box); Cummins 350 HP; Allison Auto. Trans.; 20K F/A; 46K R/A; Haulmax Susp.; 250" WB; 182" CT; 26" Frame Behind Cab; 10"8" High/12" High w/Extensions; Stk. # 7032 - \$67,800



Stone Slinger
2011 MACK GRANITE GU813; Twin Steer; Double Frame Stone Spreader/Slinger Ultra w/Remote; 405 HP Mack MP7; Allison Auto. Trans.; 40K F/A; 46K Locking Rears; Hendrickson Haulmax Susp.; 280" WB; 316" Bridge; 204" CT; 22"8" of Usable Frame; 295,357 Miles; Stk. # 7024 - \$46,500



Allison Auto.
2016 WESTERN STAR 4900; Clean Day Cab w/Cummins ISX15 Engine; 525 HP Eaton-Fuller 18 Spd. Trans.; 13,220 lb. F/A; 46K Full Locking Rears, AirLiner Susp.; 215" WB; Headache Rack; Dual Exhaust & Air Cleaners; 3.91 Ratio; Wet-Line Just Installed. 371,242 Miles; Stk. # 6791 - \$72,500



44,000# Rears
(2) 2007 MACK CHN613 DAY CAB TRACTOR; Low Mileage; 380/410 HP Mack AC; 13-Spd. Manual; 14K F/A; 44K Rears On Camelback Susp.; 210" WB; Wetline, 63K/45K/53K Miles; Stk. # 6873/6872/6895 - \$39,900



Mack AI-350 Engine
2003 MACK RD688S; Double Frame Grain Truck w/24" Schien Equipment Aluminum Body; 6" Sides; Hoist; Roll Tarp; Barn Doors; 2 Chutes; 350 HP; 18K F/A; 44K R/A; (2) Non-steerable Lift Axles; Camelback Susp.; 315/80R22.5 Front Tires 315/80R22.5 Drive Tires; 262" WB; 178" C-T; 23"6" Frame Behind Cab; 711,782 Miles; Stk. # 7069 - \$49,900



Long Heavy Spec
2009 MACK GRANITE GU813 CAB & CHASSIS; Double Frame; Mack 395 HP; Allison Auto.; 20K F/A; 46K R/A; Air Ride Susp.; 280" WB; 20"6" Frame Behind Muffler; 174" Frame Behind Muffler To Center of Trunnion; 169,543 Miles; Stk. # 6550 - \$58,900



Long Heavy Spec
2014 PETERBILT 365; Double Frame Flatbed Truck; 18,740 Lbs. F/A; 46K R/A; Peterbilt Air Ride; 281" WB; 24"6" x 96" Steel Flatbed; 24"6" Frame; 204" C-T & 3.91 Ratio; 375,355 Miles; Stk. # 7070 - \$58,500



Heavy Spec Chassis
2007 STERLING LT9500 CAB & CHASSIS; Clean; Double Frame; 385 HP CAT C13; Allison Auto.; 20K F/A; 46K R/A; Hendrickson Spring Susp.; 248" WB; 184" CT; 21" Frame Behind Cab (Muffler Takes Up 14"); 276,988 Miles; Stk. # 6914 - \$49,500



Long Heavy Spec Chassis
(2) 2014 PETERBILT 365 CAB & CHASSIS; TRI-DRIVE; 450 HP Cummins ISX; 18-Spd. Transmission; 20K F/A; 64K Triple Locking Rears; Air Trac Susp.; 445/65R22.5 Front; 11R24.5 Rear Tires; 278" WB; 334" Bridge; 24" Frame Behind Cab; PTO; 188,725 Miles; Stk. # 7020 - \$57,000 EACH



Qty. (2)
2014 MACK TITAN T0713 DAYCAB; 565/605 HP Mack MP10; Eaton Fuller 18-Spd.; Headache Rack; 18K F/A; 44K Rears w/Diff. Lock; 385/65R22.5 Front; 11R24.5 Rear Tires; Air Ride Susp.; 232" WB; 140" CT; Dual Exhaust & Air Cleaners; Wetline; Stk. # 7042 - \$59,900



NO RUST
2013 PETERBILT 367 DAYCAB; Very Clean; 390 HP Cummins ISX; Allison Auto. Trans.; 212" WB; 20K F/A; 46K Full Locking Rears; Wetline; Air Trac Susp.; 18,400 lb. Chassis Weight; 15" Frame Behind Cab; 130" CT; 213,229 Miles; Stk. # 6768 - \$74,900

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Pricing Corn Silage – Fall 2025 Update

John Hanchar

Summary

- Analysis suggests corn silage price depends upon corn silage quantities, alfalfa hay price, the price received by farmers for milk, and corn grain price.
- Analysis for NY suggests corn silage price estimates are most sensitive to changes in alfalfa hay price, and corn grain price.
- Given recently available alfalfa hay, and corn grain prices (USDA/NASS, and Western NY Energy, respectively, 2025-08-14 access date), a current price analysis for NY suggests an estimated fall 2025 corn silage price of about \$63 per ton, unchanged from preliminary estimates. The fall 2024 estimate was about \$53 per ton.

Determining Corn Silage Price

This year, weather conditions presented challenges to farm business owners working to implement cropping programs as planned. Depending upon adjustments being considered, farm business own-

ers seek expected price information for feasible crop alternatives. Dairy farmers, and cash grain farmers, when faced with a need to consider changes to cropping programs due to weather and, or markets, seek expected price received information. Information is valuable when making management decisions regarding buying, selling agreements. Sources of price received information for some field crops are available. However, price received information for corn silage is very limited.

A farm business owner can examine how much corn silage the owner would be willing to supply to a market at a given price. Analysis of the farm business' cost structure for corn silage production combined with consideration of other factors help define the supply relationship. The seller can develop a target based upon the above, but actual market conditions provide no guarantee that a buyer will purchase quantities desired at prices that achieve the producer's target.

Some farm business owners might approach the task of determining corn silage price from a value in production, or input demand perspective. Amounts of

Pricing Corn Silage – Fall 2025 Update Cont.

John Hanchar

corn grain and corn stover in a ton of corn silage, relevant output and input prices, and corn silage's place in the milk production process relative to other inputs are key factors. The buyer can develop a price target based upon the above, but actual market conditions provide no guarantee that a producer will sell the quantity desired at a price that matches the buyer's willingness to pay target.

Although factors in price determination, the two approaches described above in isolation, don't completely determine price, and quantity. Supply and demand relationships work simultaneously in markets to determine price, and quantity. Empirical price analysis brings supply, and demand relationships together to determine price.

Empirical price analysis suggests that corn silage price is a function of corn silage quantities, alfalfa hay price, the price received by farmers for milk sold, and corn grain price. An ordinary least squares regression model expresses corn silage price as a linear function of the above variables. The statistical analysis used here is basic. However, readers of the original work, and annual update articles note that the analysis, and estimates help farm business owners price corn silage.

Corn Silage Price Estimates – Preliminary Fall 2025

The ordinary least squares regression model originally reported in August 2012, updated annually to reflect additional data available, and changes in other underlying factors, produced corn silage price estimates for NY. Estimated corn silage price is a function of alfalfa hay price, and corn grain price with other factors (corn silage production, and milk price) fixed at expected levels. Initially, expected corn silage quantity is set at 8,430 units (one unit = 1,000 tons), the approximate state average for the period 2007 through 2024.

Suppose

- NY alfalfa hay price is \$238 per ton, the most recent value reported, (USDA/NASS. [Agricultural Prices](#). Washington, DC: National Agricultural Sta-

tistics Service. [QuickStats](#) website. 2025-08-14 access date.), and

- corn grain price is \$4.35 per bushel, an approximate value based upon reported cash bids for fall 2025 (Western NY Energy. "Corn Bids." Website. 2025-08-14 access date.)

Using the above prices for alfalfa hay, and corn grain as expected prices, estimated corn silage price is about \$60 per ton. The estimate represents the expected value of corn silage post harvest, in the bunk, wet, for the fall months of September, October, November, 2025. Compare this to last fall's estimate of about \$53 per ton. Late planting dates, and other agronomic factors may combine for lower production in 2025 when compared with the average corn silage quantity. Using an expected corn silage quantity of 7,938 units (1 unit = 1,000 tons), about one standard deviation less than the initial value, yields a corn silage price estimate of about \$63 per ton. The current estimates are equal to the first set of estimates reported in the August 2025 issue of *Ag Focus*.

A variety of seller, buyer scenarios exist for different corn crop end uses. In addition to corn silage price, evaluation of alternatives benefits from the following information

- expected price received for corn grain, for example, \$4.35 per bushel
- expected yields of corn grain, and corn silage
- corn grain harvesting and hauling, and drying costs, for example, \$41 per acre, \$32 per acre, respectively
- corn silage chop, haul, and fill costs, for example, \$170 per acre

Buyers, and sellers use an estimate as a base, typically adjusting for quality and, or harvest, hauling and storage costs based upon the situation, for example, when pricing standing corn for silage. Price estimates, combined with understanding of relevant supply, and demand factors from an individual farm business owner's perspective can aid decision making regarding corn silage price, while also aiding in the pricing of other forages.

Pack It Up, Pack It In

Margaret Quaassdorff

Corn Silage harvest season has begun around the Northeast NY region. It is another “Tale of Two (or More) Crops” this year with variable planting dates across the region. While there were certainly a large number of acres planted late, there were a good number of fields that were planted on time. So much of the success of putting up corn silage for the year depends on how you pack the bunk. Proper harvest, and tight packing at the correct moisture creates ideal conditions for fermentation and preservation. Some management practices lend themselves to helping you achieve optimum corn silage storage, and others detract. Here are some tips to get the most out of your crop investment.

- *Pay attention to whole plant Dry Matter (nutritionists) or moisture (agronomists).* This is the most important in my opinion. Target 32-38% DM or 68-62% moisture at the time of harvest. You can test this by feeding a few whole stalks through a wood chipper and dry by using a more traditional Koster Tester, microwave or dehydrator method, by using reliable NIR technology (handheld or through the chopper; don't forget to calibrate it at the beginning of, and throughout the harvest), or by sending that sample to a forage testing lab. If corn silage is too wet (<30% DM), DM losses occur due to nutrient breakdown and seepage from the bunk, and if it is too dry (>40% DM), it is difficult to pack it tight enough to squeeze the oxygen out to prevent spoilage, and digestibility of starch and fiber take a hit.

- *Keep an eye on chop length.* Monitor, and evaluate it several times during harvest and adjust as needed. For conventional roller-processors, actually take out a ruler, grab a piece of stalk or leaf out of the first load with a nice square cut and measure it. The ideal chop length is key to proper particle length in the total mixed ration to promote chewing via physically effective fiber, and reduce ration sorting by cows. A good goal to aim for is between 5/8 in and 3/4 inch if you have a conventional roller-processor, which also helps with kernel breakage. Chop length is typically extended to 1 – 1¼ inches when using a processor with intermeshing disks to increase shredded fiber length, while still pulverizing those kernels. Use a Penn State Particle Separator to monitor overall particle size.

- *Crush those kernels.* Unprocessed corn silage passes through the cow and into the manure, and is a profit loss. During harvest, kernels should at least be broken into ¼ kernel pieces. This ensures optimum starch availability and digestibility, and really matters to the nutritional value of the corn silage. A recommended roll gap for a conventional processor is 1-3mm, but will depend on DM and chop length. Setting a 30-40% speed differential between rolls is a good way to improve processing.

- *Add research-based and proven inoculants.* Specifically use an upfront-fermenter inoculant on corn silage during harvest to promote a more efficient and effective fermentation. This helps to improve DM recovery during fermentation, reducing your shrink. If you have challenges with spoilage and heating during feed out in warm spring and summer months, now is the time to purchase and incorporate a good inoculant containing *L. buchneri*. It is more cost effective to do this now, than to treat silage with propionic acid as you feed out later.

- *Pack adequately and cover completely.* A proper density is >15 pounds per cubic foot and tight enough to eliminate excess oxygen from the bunk. Oxygen remaining in the bunk will allow for DM losses due to inappropriate degradation of nutrients by aerobic bacteria, mold and yeast. Achieve this by packing in thin 4-6 inch layers. Packing in layers thicker than this does not reach the deeper layers, and will lead to inconsistent densities. Continuing to excessively pack and drive over the top of the bunk after the last layer was added can actually push oxygen further into the bunk. Pack your last load the same amount of time as the others for best results (often less than 30 minutes). Over-packing contributes to loss in several ways. Excessive tractor traffic damages the plant cells and leaks nutrients and moisture. At the top of the bunk or pile, where oxygen is more abundant, it creates a great environment for spoilage organisms (aerobic bacteria and mold) to flourish. If you over-packed last year, you may be able to see a layer of white mold 6 to 12 inches below the top surface of the bunk. Try not to do that again this year. In addition to feed loss, excessive packing also eats up time (labor hours) and fuel. When it comes to covering, it is important to do so as quickly as possible after filling the storage facility. Without proper covering with a quality oxygen barrier layer, oxygen can easily penetrate 3 feet into silage and cause spoilage

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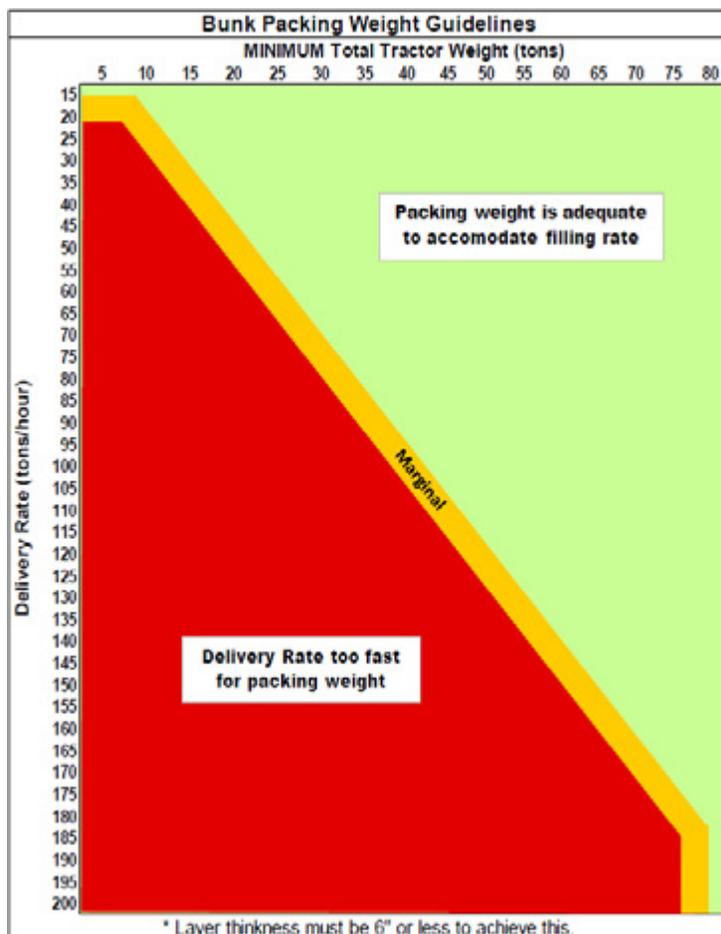
Pack It Up, Pack It In Cont.

Margaret Quaassdorff

at that level. An oxygen barrier film will typically reduce losses 3 to 5 percent over standard plastic. When covered properly shrink can range from 2 to 6 percent, but an uncovered pile can result in 10 to 25 percent loss.

- *Know your inventory and allow 2025 Corn Silage to ferment until the holidays.* To get the most milk per ton, fresh corn silage should remain untouched in the bunk, pile, bag or silo for at least three months before feeding. This allows the feed to stabilize, and makes the starch in your crushed kernels more available to rumen microbes (who are the ones we are actually feeding). If you seem to be short on inventory every year, and have to open the bunk early, pre-harvest is a good time to brainstorm with your nutritionist on how to create more space for carry-over, or extend what you harvest this year.

Happy Harvest!



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YATES COUNTY COVER CROP FIELD DAY

Brought to you in cooperation by the Yates County Soil & Water Conservation District; Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County; Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock, & Field Crops Team; Town of Milo Agricultural Committee; & King's Agriseed



September 3rd, 2025

REGISTRATION 8:30AM

PROGRAM 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM



2902 Hoyt Road
Penn Yan, NY



It's Almost Time to Plant Winter Wheat

Mike Stanyard

It seems like we just finished wheat harvest and here we are ready to do it all again. Wheat yields were up and down, but the majority were happy with how this year's crop turned out. Harvest timing was more typical and the first field I heard come off was July 8. Most farms started between the 15th and 20th. Thankfully, wheat quality was good with vomitoxin levels low and good test weights. So, let's get ready to go and make sure this year's wheat crop gets off to a great start. Where do we begin?

Weed Burndown. Mark Loux from Ohio State has put some good summary articles together so I'll just summarize some of his recommendations, <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-30/burndown-herbicides-no-till-wheat>.

Options: Glyphosate, Sharpen, Gramoxone and Dicamba. Glufosinate (70 days prior to planting) and 2, 4-D (minimum 30 days prior to planting) are not labeled for wheat at planting

- Combination of glyphosate and Sharpen probably provides the best efficacy on marestail.
- Sharpen can be applied preplant/preemergence. Applying 2 oz improves length of residual.
- Dicamba has preplant restrictions of 10 days between application and planting for every .25 lb ai/A used. (ie. 20 days for .50 lb ai/A).
- Gramoxone will effectively control small marestail seedlings.
- Use the recommended adjuvants (ie. MSO with Sharpen).
- Increase gallons of water to 15 - 20 per acre with Sharpen and Gramoxone to improve coverage.

Variety Selection. Cornell has small grain trials planted across the state each season, many in our NWNy region. You can review this year and past year's results for red and white winter wheat on their website, <https://blogs.cornell.edu/varietytrials/small-grains-wheat-oats-barley-triticale/>.

Fly-Free Dates. I get questions about the fly free dates every year. I have never seen Hessian flies in NY, but the dates are good to use as a starting point. I have been seeing more aphid transmission of Barley yellow dwarf virus (fall yellows). Both pests are taken out by the first frost. Fly-free dates are determined based on altitude and hence the first frost should occur sooner at higher elevations. **For NWNy, the date when it is safe to plant is roughly September 10 at 1200 ft, September 15 at 800 ft,**

and September 20 at 400 ft.

Fertility at Planting. I have seen an increase in the number of wheat growers putting down starter fertilizer with great results! Phosphorus is very important and winter grains need 15 pounds for strong seedling establishment. Wheat also likes between 20-30 pounds of nitrogen at planting to promote fall tiller development.



Start off planting around 1.3 million seeds per acre in mid-September and increase population based on soil conditions and planting date. Planting depth should be 1 to 1.5 inches deep.

Soil Condition	Seeding Rate (million seeds/acre)				
	Sept. 15	Sept. 25	Oct. 5	Oct. 15	Oct. 25
Good	1.33	1.45	1.57	1.69	1.8
Average	1.45	1.57	1.69	1.8	1.93
Poor	1.57	1.69	1.8	1.93	2.06

To figure out how many pounds per acre, use the following formula.

Seeds per acre divided by # seeds/lb. = lb./acre

Example: 1,450,000 / 13,000 = 111.5 lb./acre. Remember seeds per pound can vary from 9,000 to 16,000 seeds per pound so make sure you know your seed size. It should be on the bag. If you can't find it, ask your seed dealer.

Below is a handy **Wheat Seeding Population Quick Chart** from Dennis Pennington from Michigan State with the math already done for you based on seed size and desired population. Here is a link to the full article, https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/planting_winter_wheat_crop.

Seeds/lb	Target seeding rates (millions of seeds/acre)			
	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.8
	Actual pounds of seed required per acre			
10,000	133	156	178	200
11,000	120	140	160	180
12,000	109	127	145	164
13,000	100	117	133	150
14,000	86	100	114	129

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