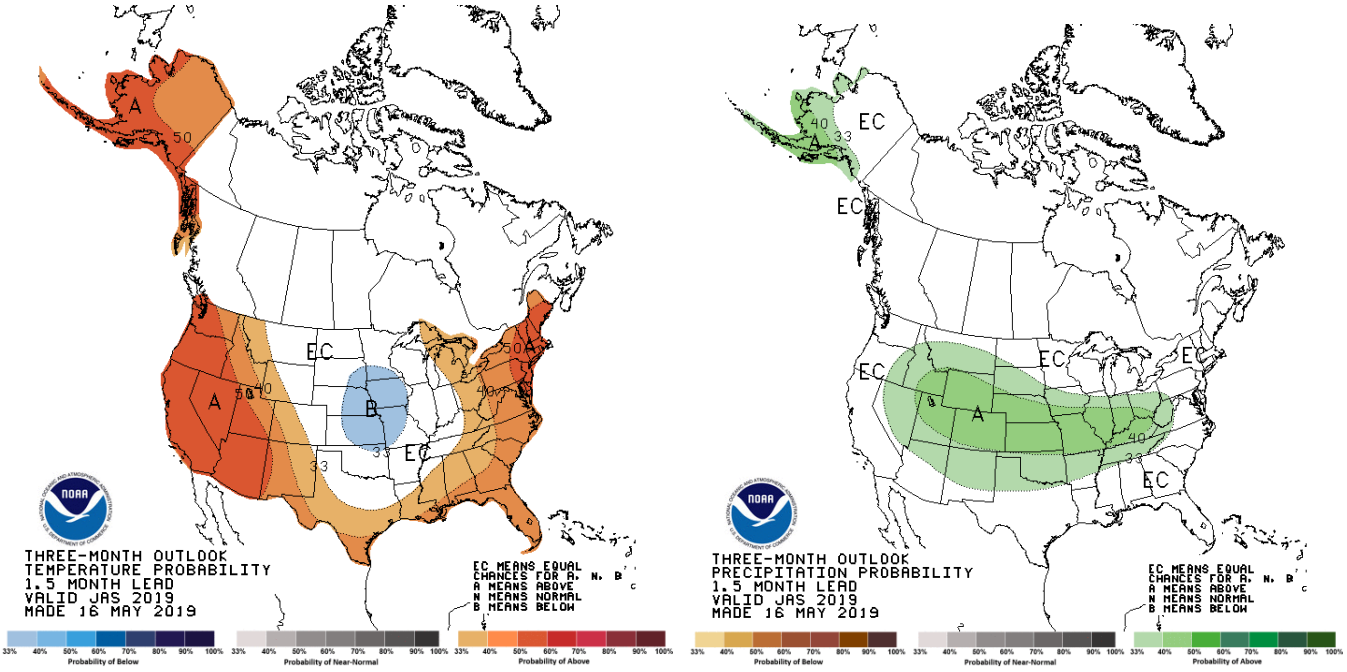
Field Crops, Forages and Soils Updates for NNY ***13 June 2019***

- NNY Weather Summary for April 1 through May 31, 2019. We're having a cool, wet spring reminiscent of 2017. Precipitation totals for April and May at all 24 NNY locations listed below are above normal except for Redwood and Louisville. Essex and Lewis Counties have been the wettest with up to 47% more rain than normal for April and May. The region averaged 35 rainy days out of 61 for this 2-month period making drying days infrequent or nonexistent for many. Temperatures have also been well below normal. Base-50 GDD accumulations are 44% below the 15-year average across the region – ranging from 34% to 63% fewer GDD than normal. Slow GDD accumulations have resulted in sluggish corn germination. 90 to 120 GDD are needed for corn seedlings to emerge.

		- - - - - - - Accumulation from April 1 to May 31, 2019 - - - - - - -					
		- - - Precipitation, in - - -			- GDD Base 50F -		GDD Base 40F
County	**Town/Village**	**Total**	**DFN**	**Days**	**Total**	**DFN**	**Total**
Clinton	Champlain	8.69	+0.78	36	142	-121	513
	Ellenburg Depot	7.87	+0.47	37	**86**	**-144**	**405**
	Beekmantown	8.51	+1.45	34	148	-119	520
	Peru	**6.84**	+0.68	32	153	-113	522
Essex	Whallonsburg	10.01	+2.64	34	180	-91	582
	Ticonderoga	9.53	+1.92	**31**	**222**	-77	**643**
Franklin	Bombay	7.28	+0.13	33	125	-130	494
	Malone	7.44	+0.29	34	93	-138	431
	Chateaugay	8.03	+0.39	35	89	**-144**	421
Jefferson	Rodman	10.44	+2.98	36	142	-122	522
	Cape Vincent	8.91	+1.98	**38**	127	**-69**	499
	Evans Mills	9.60	+2.44	37	178	-116	573
	Redwood	8.32	-0.06	34	143	-115	528
	Antwerp	8.39	+1.24	36	141	-109	514
Lewis	Talcottville	**11.31**	**+3.60**	**38**	124	-91	486
	Martinsburg	9.85	+3.24	35	169	-86	575
	Carthage	9.46	+2.28	36	159	-100	546
St. Lawrence	Gouverneur	7.91	+0.22	36	144	-89	528
	Hammond	8.05	+0.30	37	136	-95	521
	Ogdensburg	8.67	+0.81	33	134	-104	505
	Canton	9.26	+1.73	37	143	-117	507
	Madrid	8.20	+1.06	34	134	-115	494
	North Lawrence	7.39	+0.05	37	130	-137	497
	Louisville	7.09	**-0.35**	33	129	-110	495
Average		**8.63**	**+1.26**	**35**	**140**	**-111**	**513**

* Precipitation in inches, temperature in Fahrenheit, DFN = difference from 15-year average, Days = days with precipitation. Calculated from ACIS NRCC 2.5-mile gridded datasets. High and low values within each column are highlighted.

- <u>The weather outlook for July-August-September calls for warmer-than-average temperatures with typical precipitation</u>. See maps below.



- <u>Corn planting is well behind schedule</u> - May and June have been very wet which has substantially delayed corn planting. USDA-NASS estimates that about 50% of NYS corn has been planted and 24% has emerged, which is well below last year's 86% planted and 54% emerged as of this week, which was right about average. Here in NNY, farms range from nearly finished to barely started, depending on soil types and weather patterns. Thought it is tempting to rush, but be patient and wait for good soil conditions. Planting into too-wet soils can result in sidewall compaction in the furrow, surface compaction, poor seed-to-soil contact, which leads to inconsistent germination and restricted root growth throughout the season

  <u>Consider switching full season corn hybrids for shorter day varieties if possible</u>. We recommend planting your preferred full season hybrids up to about May 25th for grain and June 1st for silage. After those dates, start dialing back your relative maturities 5 days for each week that goes by.

  It's not too late to plant corn to meet forage needs. It is not yet time to abandon corn planting in favor of annual warm season grasses. Compared to sorghum-sudangrass, millets, cereals and sorghum, corn is still the best yielding option into July. Rather than taking on the expense and risks of planting a crop that is new or less familiar, consider fertilizing all your grass and corn fields well, to reach optimal yields, maximizing returns on what is already planted.

- <u>First cutting is progressing</u> as small opportunities have appeared, though most all alfalfa and grass harvested so far has likely been taken as haylage and baleage with little or no dry hay taken. Few stretches of more than 1 or 2 sequential drying days have occurred, delaying or preventing any mowing and baling for dry hay. Quality of any first cutting still standing is likely heifer and beef cattle quality or less. Peak quality for pure alfalfa passed by early last week or before for most NNY fields and pure grasses peaked a week or two before those. At this point, prioritize your best hay and leave the bedding quality for last, though that needs to come off too for some better quality second cutting.

PEST UPDATES:

- Scout emerging and seedling corn for Black Cutworm. Extension specialists, farmers and consultants have reported high numbers of black cutworm moths caught in traps across NYS and the Upper Midwest – as close as Lewis County - this spring. We expect above average problems with BCW in newly emerged corn as a result. Weedier fields are notorious for attracting more BCW. One field with above threshold clipping has already been reported. Look for corn plants that are wilted or cut off at the ground, carefully dig up the soil around the plant to find the BCW larva. BCW are nocturnal and do their damage during the night. During the day they hide in the soil. Threshold to justify spraying is 5% of plants cut off or missing due to BCW. Mike Stanyard, CCE NWNY Field Crops Specialist, has a video on how to scout for BCW here. Appropriate insecticides for BCW infestations above threshold are here.

A black cutworm (BCW) larva next to a cut-off corn seedling.

- While you're scouting BCW, be vigilant for armyworm presence. Pennsylvania farms have reported early season armyworm damage in corn fields this spring. Armyworm moths are long-range migrants, arriving from the south with spring storms. More than one armyworm generation per season is typical, but the first generation is responsible for most economic losses in NYS. Check fields regularly for ragged holes chewed from the leaf margins and pellet-like droppings (frass) in the whorls and scattered on the ground. The larvae will be found in the leaf whorls or at the surface of the soil. Armyworm prefer grasses and will lay eggs in:
    1. Grass or mostly grass hay fields and pastures
    2. Corn fields that were late planted into grass sods, no-till or reduced tillage fields, fields with crop residue, planted into a small grain (especially rye grass) cover crop
    3. Corn fields with grassy weeds, quackgrass, crabgrass and bluegrass and other perennials
    4. Small grain fields

Additional resources:

1. Cornell Cooperative Extension's North Country Regional Ag Team Web Resources
2. New York Integrated Pest Management (NYSIPM) Web Resources
3. Weekly Crop Progress & Condition Report. 2019. New York USDA-NASS.
4. Northeast Regional Climate Center

For more information about field crop and soil management, contact your local Cornell Cooperative Extension office or your CCE Regional Field Crops and Soils Specialists, Mike Hunter and Kitty O'Neil.

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Our Mission

"The North Country Regional Ag Team aims to improve the productivity and viability of agricultural industries, people and communities in Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton and Essex Counties by promoting productive, safe, economically and environmentally sustainable management practices and by providing assistance to industry, government, and other agencies in evaluating the impact of public policies affecting the industry."

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities