



CROP ALERT

May 16, 2014

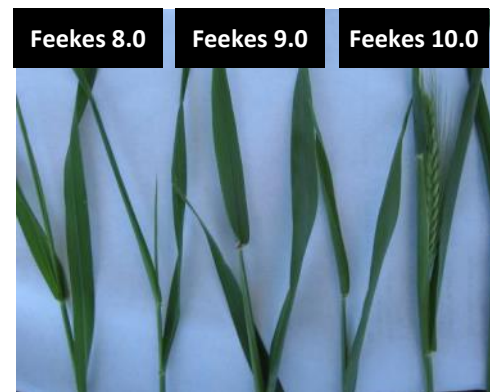
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Winter Triticale Silage Harvest

Much of the winter triticale is in the two node (Feekes 7.0) to flag leaf emergence (Feekes 8.0) stages across northwestern NY. You will see some taller plants turning a whitish gray when the flag leaf is emerging. By the end of the next week most fields should be ready to harvest & at the flag leaf stage (Feekes 9.0). Some fields may ready a few days earlier. For winter triticale harvest:

- Make wide, thin swaths—greater than 75% of cutterbar width. Do not use conditioning rolls, they only help dry alfalfa hay.
- Use a tedder 2-6 hours after cutting. Don't drive too fast otherwise it will clump.
- Try to harvest the same day as you cut. If the nights are cold (~40°F) you can probably get away with leaving it overnight without losing quality.
- Chop triticale silage at 1.5 inches and not 3/4 inch (normal setting for haylage) to reduce leachate.
- Inoculate with a homolactic bacteria.
- Do not spray with glyphosate prior to harvest. It is off-label, and will do nothing to help dry down the triticale.
- Use some tillage to reduce the chances of allelopathy prior to planting corn. A single strip-tillage pass is possible on lighter soils, but a more aggressive zone-tillage pass (or two) with an Unverferth or similar rig will be required on heavier ground. Two passes perpendicular to each other with a very aggressive full-width tillage tool can work as well. If attempting to no-till corn, use multiple coulters to get some light tillage over the row. There will not allelopathic effects on soybeans or alfalfa.

Figure 1: Winter Triticale Feekes 8.0, 9.0, 10.0



Source: [Winter Triticale Forage](#)

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Haylage Harvest & Insects

Haylage fields will also be ready to harvest soon. Many orchardgrass fields are already in the boot stage (below) and will start heading out (above) next week even though they are still short, *Figure 2*. Be sure to check out #CarlTheCropCow on Twitter & Facebook for more in-field photos. Tall fescue fields are not quite in the boot stage yet, but they won't be far behind the orchardgrass. Most pure alfalfa stands will probably be harvested around Memorial Day unless they are taken early. We haven't had the heat units yet for alfalfa weevil so we will have to watch second cut for them along with leafhoppers.

Figure 2: Orchardgrass Ready To Harvest



Source: Bill Verbeten

Corn Planting

Farmers are finally making some progress on planting their corn, but most of the region is 2-3 weeks behind. Many farmers are starting to ask if they should switch hybrids to earlier relative maturity groups. According to Bill Cox of Cornell University farmers should switch away from full season corn varieties if they are planted after May 20th for grain & May 25th for silage.

Be Safe Out There!

This past week there was an incident where a young man passed out from hydrogen sulfide exposure while loading a manure tanker in our region. Luckily he was okay, but it serves as a reminder to keep an eye out for one another and know your limits. Everyone is working long days, but it's not worth getting that extra field in the ground if it puts you at risk.

Fungicide Resistance

While not widespread there has been documented resistance to tebuconazole in *Fusarium graminearum* in NY. The resistance was found in a single isolate from a single field. However that strain is still vulnerable to metconazole (Caramba, Headline AMP, & Twinline) and prothioconazole (Proline & Prosaro). Caramba and Prosaro are still effective and the best options for reducing DON levels and controlling *Fusarium* Head Blight (*Figure 3*) in small grains. This is warning shot from nature, and we need to use every tool in the toolbox correctly to reduce the chances of further resistance development. For all fungicides make sure that a disease is present (or likely to be present) before spraying, use the full labeled rate, be sure to add adjuvants to reduce the effect of hard water and/or contaminants, grow resistant crop varieties, practice crop rotation, and use some tillage to reduce inoculum. We are continuing to monitor diseases throughout our region and your collaboration helps us to track to see if resistance is developing to other fungicides on other crops.

Figure 3: Fusarium Head Blight on Barley



Source: [Dept. of Ag, New Brunswick](#)