



## CROP ALERT

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### Forage Harvest Update

Triticale harvest is in full swing across the region, *Figure 1*. In most places the forage quality will likely not start to decrease until after Memorial Day when seed heads will start to come out of the boot. Drying conditions are looking good over the weekend and into next week with daytime temperatures forecasted to be in 70s. Do everything you can to get the triticale silage chopped (TLC at 1 to 1.5 inches) the same day you cut. We had cool nights in 2013 during the triticale harvest, but this year with overnight temperatures in the 50-60°F range the chances of losing forage quality due to respiration by micro-organisms is much higher. Some haylage harvests have begun and will continue most of next week across the region. Orchardgrass is headed out, while tall and meadow fescue are still in the boot stage, and most alfalfa is still in the late vegetative to early bud stage.

*Figure 1: Winter Triticale Drying*



*Source: Bill Verbeten*

*Figure 2: Cereal Leaf Larvae*



*Source: Mike Stanyard*

### Get Ready to Scout for Insects

The weather finally looks to be warming up and so are some of our insect pests.

**Cereal leaf beetle (CLB)** has become very active in the past week, *Figure 2*. Adults are prevalent and the small oblong orange eggs can be easily found in oat and wheat fields. We found our first small larvae in the lower canopy of a wheat field yesterday. With the warmer weather, eggs will quickly hatch in the next week. Thresholds for CLB are three or more eggs and larvae per stem or one per flag leaf. We also observed CLB adults and feeding in triticale silage fields while harvesting research trials in Ontario and Wyoming

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Counties this past week. Based on our observations silage harvest occurs before CLB has had any effect on yield or quality of the small grain silage.

Figure 3: Common Armyworm



Source: Mike Stanyard

The Midwest (IL, IN, and KY) has been finding populations of **common armyworm (CAW)**, Figure 3, in wheat and some fields have been treated. When you are out scouting for CLB, keep a close eye out for small CAW larvae feeding on the lower leaves in the canopy. Look for leaf feeding damage on the sides of the lower leaves. CAW are very difficult to detect when they are small. Just like BC they mainly are nocturnal so looking at night may help with finding them.

The little bit of corn that has been planted and emerged across the region is stressed and yellow. The warmer temperatures and some needed sunshine should push it through. Some early herbicides were not able to be applied due to the wet soil conditions. Here is a link to an article from PSU regarding delayed PRE herbicides and maximum plant height restrictions on corn, <http://extension.psu.edu/plants/crops/news/2014/05/delayed-pre-corn-herbicide-applications-1>. **Remember, some of these products may not be**

**labeled in NY.**

Midwestern states have been reporting large catches of **black cutworm (BC)** moths since late April. However, Penn State reported large catches just last week across PA. Aaron Santangelo has also observed increasing numbers in Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties this past week just south of our region. There are a lot of weedy fields out there that have not been able to be planted yet. Female moths look for these fields to lay their eggs and the larvae feed on grasses and other weeds. As these fields get burned down and corn planted into them, they run a high risk of being hammered as soon as they emerge. If populations are high, seed treatments and Bt's will not control all of them. Scouting will be crucial to catch them early and spray an insecticide. The little bit of corn up around the region needs to be watched very diligently for early signs of BC feeding!!! Remember BC larvae mainly feed at night so a night stroll with a flashlight can be helpful with early detection. Threshold is 5% or more of the plants are cut or show feeding damage.

There were few fields with appreciable levels of **alfalfa weevils** prior to first cut haylage. Keep an eye on the second cutting regrowth for increasing numbers of alfalfa weevils and their feeding, Figure 4, in addition to **potato leafhoppers** (some have been observed in eastern NY this past week).

Figure 4: Alfalfa Weevil Feeding & Alfalfa Weevils



Source: Mike Stanyard