Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team

CROP ALERT

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Growth stage 8 on the right and 9 on the left.
Note leaf collar on the flag leaf.
Source: Mike Stanyard

Triticale Forage Harvest

Now is the time to check the growth stage of your winter triticale! Triticale should be harvested at Feekes 9 for optimal quality. At stage 8 the flag leaf is just emerging from the top of the plant. At Feekes 9, the collar of the flag leaf is visible. Many fields in the region are at this stage right now and are being cut.

Wheat Update

I am seeing plenty of early planted wheat with the flag leaves emerged (see above on triticale). **Cereal leaf beetles** are active but no eggs yet. I have found some **powdery mildew** in areas that were planted early and are very thick. I was not worried about it last week with all the heat and dry air. However, with weather conditions going in reverse and flag leaves emerging, time to keep a closer eye on it.

Look for the gray fuzzy spots on the stem and leaves and yellow lower leaves.
Source: Mike Stanyard

Armyworm

There were lots of reports from the Midwest a couple of weeks ago about high **common armyworm** moth catches. Some pheromone traps were put out early last week around NWNY and no moths have been caught yet. Some moths still could have slipped in early on us. When scouting, look for the feeding on the outer edges of lower leaves and watch for the blackbirds! If they are diving into your wheat, you better go take a closer look. Armyworms are very difficult to find in wheat when they are small. They are mainly nocturnal feeders so night scouting may pay off right now.

Alfalfa Update

Alfalfa weevil (AW) larvae are hatching and I have found a couple fields with some feeding damage. Most of these have been south facing fields that warm up quicker. Look for the shot hole feeding injury on the top leaves. Treatment threshold is 40% tip feeding. Randomly pick 50 stems and count the number with feeding damage. You do not have to actually look for the larvae. If 20 of those 50 stems are positive for damage, you are at 40%. If you are within 5-7 days of harvest, cutting a little earlier is an option. The key is to cut before the AW larvae reach the 4th instar. This stage causes 80% of the feeding damage. I was finding mostly 1st with some 2nd instar larvae this week. If harvest is further off, an insecticide application may be warranted.

Clean stem compared to weevil damaged stem.
Source: Mike Stanyard