

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program

CROP ALERT

May 18, 2018

Mike Stanyard & Jodi Letham, Regional Agronomists, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Alfalfa

The alfalfa height measurements for this spring are indicating most areas should be ready for harvest of mixed seedings next week! Prediction equations for NDF of mixed alfalfa-grass stands were developed based on sampling and separating mixtures from fields in 2004-2005 by Dr. Jerry Cherney. The equation is used in the excel spread sheet pictured below to determine optimum harvest time for peak forage quality. Currently research is still being done to determine an accurate correlation between grass height and harvest date. Ideally, grasses should be harvested at boot stage before heading at 50-55% NDF for hay or silage.

County	Town	Elevation	Alfalfa Height Inches	Predicted Grass % NDF	Predicted 50/50 Mix % NDF	Predicted Alfalfa % NDF	Predicted Date to Cut Grass	Predicted Date to Cut Mix	Predicted Date to Cut Alfalfa
Monroe	Scottsville	620	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/14/18	5/22/18	5/30/18
Wyoming	Castile	1340	18.5	53.0	40.1	31.5	5/14/18	5/21/18	5/30/18
Livingston	Geneseo	850	19.4	53.8	40.9	32.1	5/13/18	5/20/18	5/28/18
Livingston	Geneseo	870	21	55.1	42.3	33.2	5/11/18	5/19/18	5/26/18
Livingston	Mt. Morris	600	0	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Livingston	Caledonia	890	0	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Monroe	Churchville	650	20	54.3	41.4	32.5	5/12/18	5/20/18	5/28/18

Herbicides on Wheat

Most of our wheat is in Feekes Stage 6 (jointing) meaning that the first node is above ground. There are some early fields at Stage 7 (two nodes above ground). This means that the plant is no longer putting its energy into tillers (vegetative) and is focusing on stem and grain development. Plants are more susceptible to herbicide injury. A good picture review of all the Feekes growth stages can be found here,

<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/ID/ID-422.pdf>.

- ◆ **Osprey** can be applied up until Feekes Stage 6 (jointing) so for most fields this is not an option anymore for roughstalk bluegrass or cheat control.
- ◆ Applications of **2,4-D, Banvel, Clarity, MCPA** can be risky after Feekes Stage 6 and is not recommended. Some labels allow up until Feekes Stage 9 (Boot Stage) but the risk gradually increases from GS 6 to 9.
- ◆ **Harmony Extra** must be applied before the flag leaf is visible and is the best product for chickweed control.
- ◆ **Huskie** is newly labeled (24 c) for maretail control in wheat up until flag leaf emergence.
- ◆ **Axial XL** is labeled for the control of grasses in wheat and barley. Axial can be applied to wheat and barley from the 2-leaf stage to pre-boot stage. It is labeled for Foxtail (giant, green and yellow), volunteer and wild oats, annual ryegrass, barnyardgrass and canarygrass. For optimal control, it is recommended to apply when grasses have between 1 and 5 leaves on the main stem or prior to emergence of the 3rd tiller. **THIS PRODUCT IS NOT LABELED FOR OATS!!!**

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program

CROP ALERT

May 18, 2018

Mike Stanyard & Jodi Letham, Regional Agronomists, Cornell Cooperative Extension

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 pretty close to this stage right now and are beginning to harvest or will be ready to cut on Monday! Picture: growth stage 8 on the right and 9 on the left. Note leaf collar on the flag leaf.

We have a short video showing the optimal time for triticale harvest and how to determine Feekes stage 9, <https://vimeo.com/129684323>

Spring Migrants: Black Cutworm and Common Armyworm

Good News: We have not caught any common armyworm (CAW) moths in our traps yet this spring! This does not mean that they aren't coming, just not yet. Armyworm infestations can be found each year in barley, rye and wheat. They also can cause problems in grass fields, pastures, mixed grass/alfalfa seedlings and corn. They came in a little late last year and there were plenty of wheat fields sprayed the beginning of June. **Remember to look for the blackbirds to help you find where the CAW are feeding in small grains.**

Bad News: We are catching Black Cutworm (BCW) moths. Our first pheromone traps were put out on April 23 to monitor for their arrival. Four black cutworm moths were caught that first week. I have heard reports that a couple were caught in traps the week before. This is right on time for this pest. See the BCW catches for the past two weeks. Some big catches in Orleans County! Looks like we will be on the watch in late May – early June for BCW larvae activity in corn fields.

BCW	Farmington	Seneca Falls	Medina	Castile
May 7	7	7	35	-
May 15	2	6	13	6

