

# Cornell Cooperative Extension

## Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program

### CROP ALERT

June 1, 2018

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

#### Winter Wheat Pollinating

The earlier planted winter wheat was in full pollination this week. Many fields were sprayed with either Caramba or Prosaro at the perfect timing. The possible storms will slow things down the next couple of days but it looks like lots of fields will be flowering next week. While the current risk of Fusarium Head Scab is low (green) over most of the state, it looks like the model is predicting some medium (yellow) and high (red) areas over the weekend. Most of PA is high risk right now. Check the Fusarium Risk Assessment Tool (<http://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/>) as your crop approaches heading and flowering. If you are unsure about what wheat flowering looks



like, see this short video we put together, <https://vimeo.com/129585425>. Picture: Wheat at full flowering.

#### Watch Regrowth for Alfalfa Weevil Feeding



A lot of dairies had their first cut alfalfa/grass hay chopped and under plastic before Memorial Day. Quality looked excellent. I had been seeing quite a few fields with Alfalfa Weevil (AW) feeding with some close to the threshold of 40% tip feeding. The weevils were in the first to second instars so they were not a real threat and cutting was timely management. Now is the time to start scouting the regrowth. Many of the larvae are still there and getting bigger and eating more. They do 80% of their leaf feeding at the fourth instar. If you feel the alfalfa is standing still and not growing, you better take a closer look. Treatment threshold is 50% tip feeding. Randomly pick 50 stems and count the number with feeding damage. You do not have to actually look for the

larvae. If 25 of those 50 stems are positive for damage, you are at 50%.

#### Weed Resprays

Dry weather in many locations has hurt pre-emerge herbicide performance. Many weeds, particularly grasses have started to break through. Hopefully, some of the recent showers will help with some reach back activity. Hold off on respraying too quickly before evaluating. The rains will also promote new weeds to emerge so we want to get as many of those up and out of the ground before a respray.

#### Black Cutworm Alert!

It is time to be out there scouting now that cutworms are big enough to start cutting plants. **We have received multiple reports this week of economic cutworm injury in corn.** When you find a cut plant, lightly dig up the soil around the plant to find the culprit. BCW are nocturnal and feed at night and hide during the day. Some Bt's are labeled for BCW but at high infestation levels, they can still significantly reduce plant populations. Threshold is 5% plants cut or missing to justify spraying with an insecticide. See our video on how to scout for BCW, <https://vimeo.com/130331770>.

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#### Common Armyworms Update

We still have not caught any CAW in our pheromone traps in the region. We did receive reports of the first CAW being caught in traps in eastern NY this week. The storms Thursday and Friday could bring in more moths so we are not out of the woods yet!

#### Cereal Leaf Beetles in Small Grains



I am starting to find CLB larvae in malting barley fields this week. I had not been seeing them in wheat fields but I'm sure there are some out there. Threshold is three eggs and larvae per plant or one larva per flag leaf. The lack of rainfall in a good part of our region is also stressing spring grains and therefore CLB leaf feeding is more detrimental. CLB larvae are shiny and black and almost look slug-like. They cover themselves in their own excrement and are actually pale orange when clean. They feed on the green epidermis of the leaf and their damage results in a windowpane appearance as the leaves have strips of white (see picture). Oat fields should

also be checked as I found plenty of CLB adults mating in a field in Genesee County this week.

#### Potato Leafhoppers Have Arrived!

I received the first reports of PLH in alfalfa fields this week from our CCE colleagues in eastern NY. It is June 1<sup>st</sup> so they are right on time. They come up on the storm fronts so we could get an influx of adults this week. They came in under the radar last year so get your sweep nets out! Second cut regrowth and new seedlings are the most vulnerable. PLH feed by piercing and sucking the plant sap from the plant. The resulting hopper burn (yellow leaves) and stunting means that we missed our opportunity for timely management.



PLH management is based of plant height and leafhoppers per sweep. Cornell recommends taking five sets of sweeps with a sweep net (10 sweeps per set) per field and calculating a PLH (adults & nymphs, see picture) per sweep for each set. The economic thresholds for PLH are listed below.

Plant Height	PLH per Sweep
< 3 inches	0.2
3 to 7 inches	0.5
8 to 10 inches	1.0
11 to 14 inches	2.0
15+ inches	> 2.0