Western Bean Cutworm Scouting
We have been catching low numbers of WBC in our pheromone traps. Traditional peak flights occur around August 1st. We are only catching males in the traps and it is only an indication of their presence. There’s a lot of 7ft corn out there that has already tasseled so now is a good time to scout for WBC egg masses because the females prefer to lay their eggs on pre-tassel to tasseled corn on the top couple of leaves. Egg masses will be white (newly oviposited) to purple (ready to hatch). Threshold is 5% or greater of the plants with egg masses.
Start scouting!

Start Looking for Armyworms
Well, our question of “should we be concerned with armyworm” has been answered, yes! After sweeping several grass/alfalfa mixed fields, I found several armyworm larvae ranging from 1/4 to 1/2". Where I was finding the larger larvae moderate damage had occurred. These pests can quickly move from one feeding ground to another overnight and we are finding that we may have to manage a 2nd generation infestation. Be on the lookout!

Soybean Aphids are Here
We had our first report of soybean aphids last week. Some fields have already been sprayed and others are asking “should these fields be sprayed”. Most fields I have scouted were at V3-V5. Soybeans are looking a little stressed from the heat and lack of moisture in some areas. If your SBA numbers are increasing per plant (threshold 250/plant), treatment would be warranted. I have also seen a lot of ladybird adults and larvae in some fields and none in others.

Spider Mites are Here
Along with SBA, I have also been getting calls on spider mites. Many of these have been in areas that have not been getting the rain and are showing drought stress. There is no established threshold for spider mites in beans (like aphids). A typical textbook definition would say “control may be warranted when infested plants have substantial spotting or leaf yellowing and live mites, but before mites cause browning and leaf drop.” Typically soybeans can deal with a small mite population but when you throw in drought stress it is a different ball game. If the plants are starting to flip to conserve moisture, you have yellowing leaves, and mites are present, it’s time to spray in my opinion. Even more so if you have soybean aphids present as well. A Pyrethroid + Chlorpyrifos would be effective.
CROP ALERT
July 13 2018
Mike Stanyard & Jodi Letham, Regional Agronomists, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Pea Aphid / Potato Leafhopper for 3rd Cut Regrowth
Pea aphids continue to be found in high numbers when sweeping alfalfa. In most cases they are not of economic concern unless the alfalfa plant is stressed with additional insect injury, drought or compaction. We have been seeing thresholds as high as one cup per 10 sweeps! Pea aphids are slow and pear-shaped, very green colored with long black legs. This is in comparison to the quick wedged-shape PLH whose legs are tucked in under its body with a lime green color.

We have been finding below threshold numbers of Potato Leafhoppers (PLH) adults this last week across NWNY region. Third cut regrowth and new seedings can be vulnerable with pea aphids present and drought conditions. PLH feed by piercing and sucking the plant sap from the plant. If you are seeing hopper burn (yellow leaves) and stunting it would indicate we missed our opportunity for timely management.

The Grain Gurus Twilight Tour
It’s All About the New York State of Grain! Meet the Cornell scientists on the forefront of elevating NYS malting grains and learn about the first-ever Cornell University - bred malting barley varieties. Tour a modern malthouse at New York Craft Malt. Enjoy a local craft beer and dinner at Eli Fish Brewing Company, Batavia’s first brewery in 100 years! Questions??? 585-813-8399, to register: https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events.cfm