



A partnership between Cornell University and CCE Associations in these nine counties: Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne and Wyoming.

CROP ALERT May 11, 2020

Mike Stanyard & Jodi Putman, Regional Agronomists, Cornell Cooperative Extension, NWNY Team

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Significant Flights of Black Cutworm and Common Armyworm Moths!

Despite the cooler than usual weather, significant numbers of BCW and CAW have been recorded in our region. So what is a significant number of BCW? Many universities determine a significant flight of BCW as 9 moths over a two-day period. We do not look at our traps daily, only weekly, so we cannot be as accurate. Now that we have some traps that have hit this number, we should monitor the number of degree-days accumulated (base 50°F). It takes roughly 300 degree-days for BCW larvae to be big enough to cut corn plants (4th instar). This is not a scientific process but it gives us a good idea of when we should be out there monitoring for damage.

There is no real degree-day thresholds for monitoring Common Armyworm. It will be roughly 100 degree-days to egg hatch. Grass hay fields and winter grains such as wheat and barley are favored egg-laying sites. Corn planted into a green cover crop will also need to be monitored carefully.



BCW catch on April 29 in Seneca Falls. Photo: M. Stanyard / CCE NWNY Team

	BCW Ontario	BCW Seneca Falls	BCW Castile	BCW Avon	CAW Ontario	CAW Seneca Falls	CAW Castile	CAW Avon
	Wayne	Seneca	Wyoming	Livingston	Wayne	Seneca	Wyoming	Livingston
April 15	0	7	0	0	0	1	3	4
April 22	1	4	0	0	0	4	2	2
April 29	13	23	7	5	5	15	3	4
May 6	3	8	24	25	1	19	10	40

Degree-Day Accumulation April 29 - May 10, 2020 (Base 50°F)

Sodus	Varrick	Rochester	Farmington	Elba	Medina	Corwin	Gainsville	Lakeville
Wayne	Seneca	Monroe	Ontario	Genesee	Orleans	Niagara	Wyoming	Livingston
27.5	32.0	29.5	26.9	21.8	26.8	24.7	9.1	24.5

How do you Determine if your Wheat Has Reached Feekes Stage 6?

Feekes stage 6 is a very important stage to identify. This is officially the stem elongation or jointing stage. Hopefully, all of your nitrogen is applied (first shot or second shot). I know it has been challenging to get herbicides and nitrogen applied this spring. To determine if you are at FS 6, pull up a couple of primary tillers. Peel down the lower leaves like you were peeling a banana and expose the shiny lower stem. If you can see a visible bump or node (like the knuckle on your finger), then you are at FS 6 (see picture). The tiny spikelet is developing right above the first node. The number of kernels is already developed. You can cut the stem vertically and see for yourself. It usually takes 7 days to reach FS 7, which is the emergence of the 2nd node. FS 8 is the first emergence of the flag leaf and that takes another 7 to 10 days. As things get heated up, we will run through these stages quickly! The weather has not been conducive to powdery mildew infection, which likes it above 60 degrees and 85% humidity.



First nodes visible on the primary tillers. Photo: M. Stanyard / CCE NWNY Team

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1st Cutting Forage Quality Update

Summary of Alfalfa Height and Prediction of % NDF - May 2, 2020

This is the first week of monitoring 1st cutting for quality this year. Our procedure consists of using alfalfa height to predict Neutral Detergent Fiber (NDF) for alfalfa, alfalfa/grass mixed and grass stands. Alfalfa height has proven to be a reliable indicator of NDF values in the field.

Height indicators of alfalfa and grass for NDF content are below:

- In general we say 100% grass stands should be cut when nearby alfalfa is 14 inches tall to achieve the desired 50% NDF.
- Begin cutting 50/50 mixed alfalfa and grass stands when nearby alfalfa is 22 inches tall for the desired 44% NDF.
- Begin cutting 100% alfalfa stands when alfalfa is 28 inches tall for desired 40% NDF.

Predicted days to cut are based on daily NDF increases for grasses of 1% point, 50/50 mixed stands of 0.8% points and alfalfa of 0.5% point. NDF usually increases about 0.8 to 1.2/day for grasses expecting the lower end of that range in cooler weather and the higher end in warmer. Alfalfa NDF increases about 0.4 to 0.7/ day again depending on temperatures. Predictions are adjusted for the coming week’s weather and right now assuming normal growth.

Locations in the table below are where we have measured alfalfa height. You can use the location and elevation as a guide to conditions that may be similar to your farm.

The 2020 hay crop season is shaping up to be similar to our 2019 harvest schedule. An alfalfa height of 9 inches or less is too low to be used by the equation we have which is why you see “Too Early”. On May 2, 2019 the alfalfa averaged 7 inches tall and as of May 2, 2020, alfalfa is averaging 7 inches tall and majority of fields measured are 7 inches. As of today May 11, 2020 there has not been much of a change in height due to lack of growing degree days.

The table below indicates no grasses are ready to be cut today. The continued temperature fluctuations along with rain will influence how much growth we get in another week so stay tuned!

It is important that you get first cutting off in a timely manner for quality purposes, so please communicate in advance with your team on how you are going to plant corn and successfully harvest 1st cutting. Additional fields to be added to next report.

Next report will be May 18.

County	Town	Road Name	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	Wheatland Center RD	620	7	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Wyoming	Castile	Glen Iris RD	1340	7	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Livingston	Geneseo	Groveland RD	850	7	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Livingston	Geneseo	Chandler RD	870	7	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Ontario	Hopewell	Spangle Rd	860	7	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Ontario	Hopewell	Spangle Rd	740	7	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Seneca	Waterloo	Yellow Tavern Rd	590	8	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early

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