Tar Spot is Sweeping Through Southwest, NY

There is a high prevalence of tar spot in Erie and Chautauqua counties this season. Tar spot is a new reality for producers, causing challenges to silage and grain production. A severe infection reduces silage feed quality by reducing moisture, decreasing digestible components and reducing energy. It also reduces grain yield by reducing ear weight, causing poor kernel fill, and can increase stalk rot and lodging. There are no associated mycotoxins with this feed. Management options include:

1. Rotating to other crops
2. Managing residue
3. Fungicide use
4. Scouting

Although there is no rescue treatment, knowing if you have tar spot present can help you manage it in the future.

If you think you have tar spot, or need help identifying ear rot, call Katelyn Miller at 716-640-2047.

Ear Rot in Corn

Reports of ear rots are coming in this year. Identifying which ear rot may be present is important because some produce mycotoxins, which are dangerous to livestock.

Growing Degree Days (GDD) is calculated by taking the average daily temperature and subtracting it from the base temperature of a specified plant ((High + Low)/2 - base temp = GDD). For corn, we use base 86/50, meaning that corn development starts at 50°F and stops at 86°F. Silage needs 750-800 GDD (depending on hybrid maturity) after silking to reach whole plant matter of 32%. We can expect 20-25 GDD per day meaning the crop can reach 35% DM 4-7 days later, but always check your crop to see how close you may be to harvest.