



SWNY Field Crop Finds

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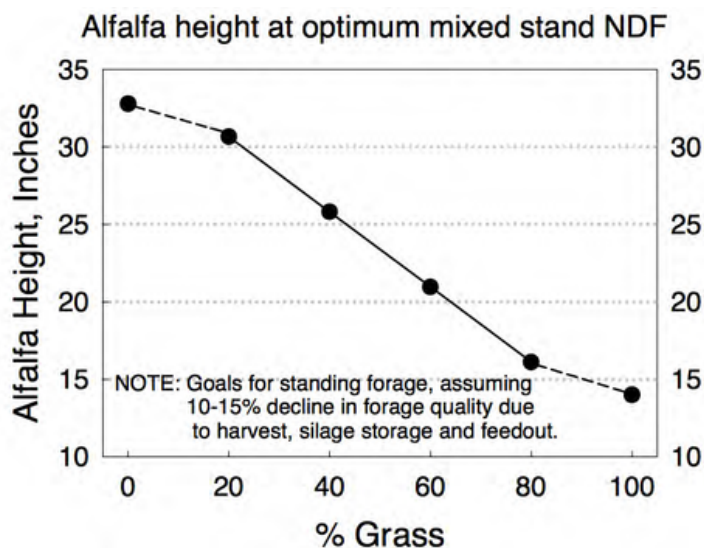
May 9th, 2025

Welcome back to Field Crop Finds!

We're back for another season of crop updates across our five counties. Each week, we'll share what we're seeing in the fields. Stay tuned for local crop conditions, timely tips, and what to watch for this season.

Pheromone Traps

Pheromone traps have been deployed throughout the region. Pests being monitored include black cutworm, western bean cutworm, common armyworm and fall armyworm. Trap counts will be available next week.



First Cutting Update

Here are some thoughts from Joe Lawrence, PRO-DAIRY's Dairy Forage Crop Production System Specialist

Based on my observations and the reports of alfalfa heights coming in alfalfa is progressing quickly and grass progress seems to be a bit slower. As happens every few years, this sets up a scenario where alfalfa heights suggest it is time to cut grass; however, grass will still be pretty immature with seedheads still very low in the stem. To avoid negative consequences to 2nd cutting (rapid head emergence, stunted regrowth) the grass seed head needs to be cut off with mowing of first cutting. i.e. 4" above soil surface if following the recommended 4" cutting height is being followed.

The intact seedhead will emerge shortly after mowing and stunt regrowth. When this occurs, it is better to wait for the seedhead to elongate above the cutting height even if this is slightly past the harvest timing suggested by the alfalfa height. Grass progress can be rapid at this time so the delay needed will not be long and it is important to track progress frequently during this time.

We want to hear from you!

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