



## SWNY Field Crop Finds

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### Early Season Pests

#### ***Alfalfa Weevil***

Alfalfa weevil overwinters in NY and is typically feeds on established stands. Second cutting regrowth is vulnerable to damage.



Look for their feeding patterns, characteristically known as "shot holes" in the buds and upper leaves. Pick 50 stems at random, and if 50% of the plants show signs of feeding, an insecticide application may be warranted.

#### ***Potato Leafhopper***

Potato leafhopper arrives mid-May to late June on storms. Second cutting regrowth and new seedlings are vulnerable to damage. They feed by removing sap from the plant, reducing the plants ability to photosynthesize. Make five sets of sweeps with a sweep net and count the amount of PLH you find. The thresholds are listed below.

Average stem length	Leafhopper/sweep
less than 3 in. (new seedlings)	0.2
3 to 7 in.	0.5
8 to 10 in.	1.0
11 to 14 in.	2.0
15 in. or above	If leafhoppers exceed 2.0 per sweep and if regrowth is within 1 week of harvest, no action needed. If not, use a short-residue insecticide.

### Pheromone Traps

	BCW <i>Farmersville</i>	BCW <i>Lawtons</i>	TAW <i>Farmersville</i>	TAW <i>Lawtons</i>
5/12/2025	0	0	0	0
5/19/2025	1	1	3	1
5/27/2025	3	6	1	3
6/3/2025	1	6	1	4

**BCW = Black Cutworm    TAW = True Armyworm**

My counts continue to remain low for BCW and TAW. However, there are significant flights of BCW still in North Collins. I have heard of a few reports of some corn fields needing to spray for BCW because it reached the 5% threshold. Be sure to scout your fields for damage.

#### ***True Armyworm***

Infestations can be found in barley, wheat and rye, and can also cause problems in grassy fields and pastures, alfalfa seedlings and corn. If you notice blackbirds in your small grains, its a good chance they are feeding on TAW. Plants will develop a ragged appearance and severe feeding can decimate whole fields.



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