



Cornell Cooperative Extension Southwest Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Program

A partnership between Cornell University and the CCE Associations in these five counties:
Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Steuben Counties.

SWNY Field Crop Finds

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Gearing up for Wheat Harvest

Wheat harvest will be starting in the next week or two for many. Here are some thoughts from Mike Stanyard on being prepared this season.

Harvest Preparation

Know your grain moisture and have the combine prepared to go when it is time to pull the trigger. As we know, weather and field conditions do not always cooperate during harvest. Many producers will start harvesting at 20% to avoid pre-harvest sprouting and dry it down to 13%. Producers who don't have dryers and rely on field drying run the greater risk of reduced grain quality. The first harvested wheat will have the best quality. If you did not spray a fungicide at flowering, vomitoxin from FHB could be a concern. Look for pink coloration and shrunken kernels in the heads. If these conditions are present, set the combine fans to high and try to blow these light kernels back onto the field.

Grain Bin Preparation

Storage facilities should be inspected thoroughly prior to grain fill. Look for openings, leaky vents, fallen supports, and signs of rodents. Bird nests are always a treat to find in the auger or vents. Stored grain insects survive in old grain, so thorough cleaning is the first line of defense. Clean up all the remaining grain on the floor of the bin. Take a long-handled broom and remove any grain stuck to the walls, around the door, supports, ladder rungs and in the fan opening. If there are lots of fines remaining on the floor, clean up with a shop vacuum. It is amazing how many insect eggs and larvae are in a small amount of material. The same is true for grain handling equipment such as augers and drying bins. After the bin is cleaned out, an insecticide application will help keep the grain mass clean. This can be more helpful the longer you keep the grain in storage. We are very limited when it comes to empty bin insecticide treatments. Tempo SC ULTRA is labeled just for empty bin treatments, not on grain. Other products that are labeled for empty bin treatment as well as a grain protectant on wheat include: deltamethrin (Suspend SC, D-fense SC, Centynal EC), Centynal Synergized Insecticide (deltamethrin + piperonyl butoxide), Gravista Insecticide or Diacon IGR Plus (deltamethrin + piperonyl butoxide + S-methoprene). Diatomaceous earth is a non-insecticidal silica sand applied as a dust in the bin and below the floor. Storcide II was a major product used for insect protection, but registration was canceled in 2024 because it contained chlorpyrifos.

Pheromone Traps

	BCW	BCW	TAW	TAW
	Farmersville	Lawtons	Farmersville	Lawtons
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
6/10/2025	1	1	0	3
6/16/2025	0	0	11	0
6/25/2025	0	0	0	6
7/1/2025	0	0	0	1
7/8/2025	1	0	0	1

BCW = Black Cutworm TAW = True Armyworm

Flight numbers remain low. Lures will be changed soon to monitor for Fall Armyworm and Western Bean Cutworm.