Cornell Cooperative Extension

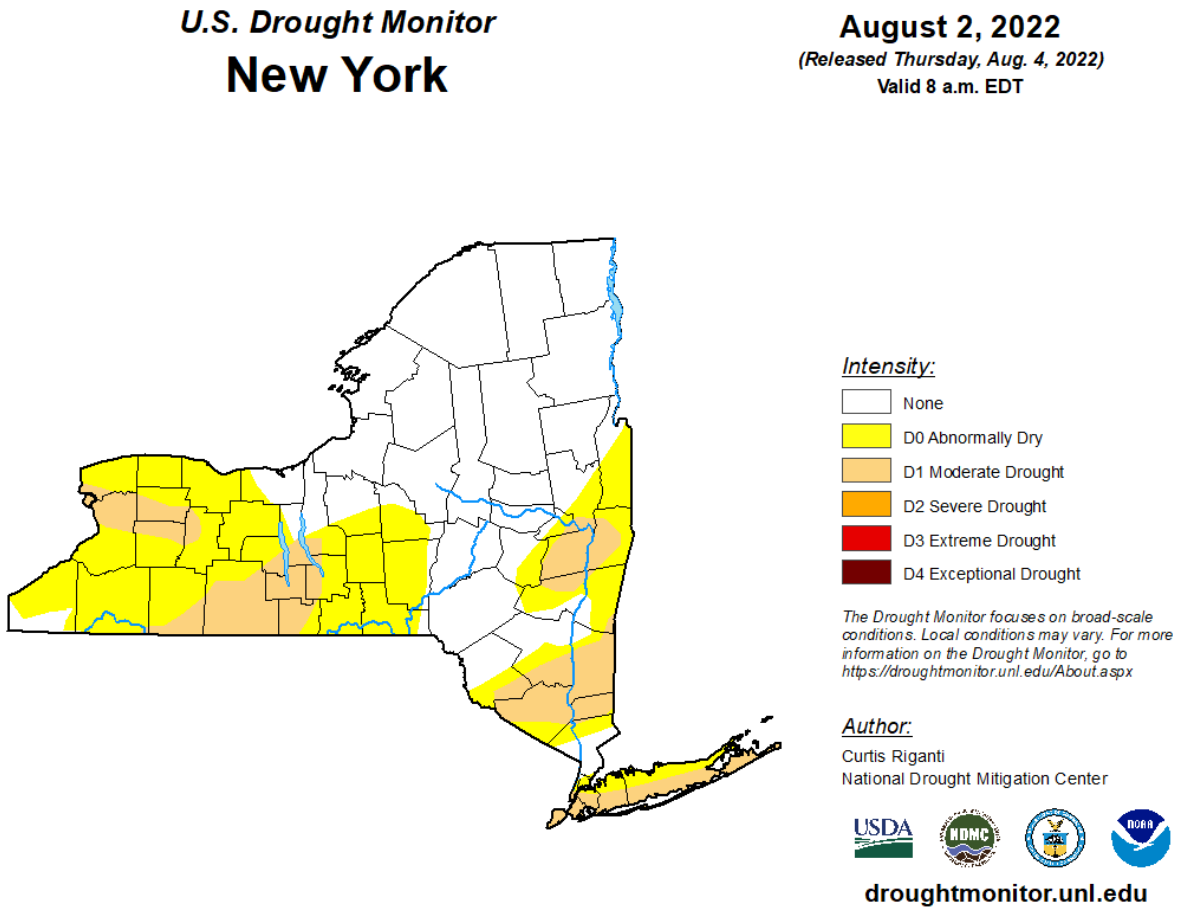
Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops

Field Crop Update – 4 August 2022

1. **Field Observations**
2. **Growing Degree Days**
3. **Pest and Disease Monitoring**

1. Field Observations

Madison and Chenango counties remain “abnormally dry”, along with eastern Schoharie and Saratoga Counties, while the southern tip of Saratoga County is in a moderate drought:



Early-planted corn and soybeans seem to be largely ok, but later plantings are really suffering. Rain is in the forecast all of next week, so hopefully that provides some respite. As we approach corn silage harvest, we will email some articles that help outline how to navigate harvest in a dry year.

3rd cutting alfalfa and second cutting of grass hay is suffering as well, so once again, consider a triticale winter cover crop that you can use for forage in spring: http://nmsp.cals.cornell.edu/publications/extension/nmsp_manager/pd2011Februaryp24-25.pdf

2. Growing Degree Days as of Aug 2nd: *See: Climate Smart Farming Growing Degree Day Calculator*

Growing degree days (GDD) are calculated by taking the average daily temperature and subtracting the base temperature for development of a given organism ((High + Low)/2 – base temp = GDD). For corn silage, we are using base 50/86, as corn development starts at 50 degrees F and ceases above 86. ***Check your location and planting date:***

As of: 20 July 2022 (Base: 86/50)			Planting Date				Silking Date				
Location	Elevation (ft)	Latitude N	May 10	May 15	May 20	May 25	July 17	July 20	July 23	July 26	July 29
Poland	675	43.23	1281	1200	1159	1086	323	258	183	123	69
Canastota	420	43.08	1477	1382	1333	1255	368	293	213	143	82
Saratoga Springs	365	43.08	1463	1371	1319	1246	357	283	207	137	82
Frankfort	530	43.03	1424	1336	1288	1211	354	282	205	138	78
Galway	749	43.02	1396	1310	1261	1190	342	271	196	129	77
St Johnsville	650	43	1293	1215	1173	1101	325	258	183	121	71
Fenner	1480	42.97	1306	1220	1179	1112	335	267	191	127	74
Fultonville	489	42.95	1389	1306	1258	1183	342	271	195	128	76
Bouckville	1170	42.93	1299	1217	1176	1108	332	263	188	124	71
Richfield Springs	1580	42.85	1248	1172	1133	1064	318	252	180	118	67
Cherry Valley	758	42.81	1234	1161	1122	1052	315	251	179	117	68
Burlington	1959	42.72	1219	1146	1107	1040	311	246	177	115	65
Sherburne	1115	42.69	1348	1266	1221	1149	337	265	193	126	72
Cobleskill	937	42.68	1388	1306	1258	1181	347	276	200	132	76
Oneonta	1107	42.47	1190	1117	1078	1011	304	240	173	111	64
Oxford	1499	42.4	1258	1178	1135	1068	321	254	184	119	67
Bainbridge	1000	42.3	1292	1211	1165	1095	325	257	187	121	68

3. Pest and disease monitoring

Crop foliage continues to be *largely* clean in terms of insect pests and diseases. However, I've been checking every stand of knapweed I can find, and I managed to identify a single stand of true spotted knapweed in Montgomery county (a small stand in a ditch. So it's definitely out there, but I still haven't *yet* seen it in a hay field or pasture - I'm assuming it must be in some fields, somewhere). Once again, the main point of positively identifying knapweed species is that spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*) may be managed using biological control beetles, while these beetles are not effective at managing other knapweed species. Here are some pics I've taken recently, including the spotted knapweed. The bracts (papery scales beneath the flowers) are the identifying character:

A. ***Western bean cutworm (WBC), true armyworm (TAW) and fall armyworm (FAW) in corn****.*

This week, insect numbers increased slightly, but remained relatively low. At tasseling, the window of risk for WBCW largely closes, and the cornfields where we saw the highest populations (still very low by damage-causing standards) have long-since tasseled and there are still no egg masses in sight. We'll continue monitoring for a few more weeks as we still want to track the life cycle of this relatively-new pest in NY so we can better predict its population dynamics in the future:

	Week of:	**1 August**		
County	**Town/Village**	**WBCW**	**TAW**	**FAW**
Madison	Oneida	17		0
Herkimer	Poland	7		0
Montgomery	Canajoharie	10	0	
Saratoga	W. Charlton	41		1
Schoharie	Schoharie	10		1
Otsego	Index	2	0	
Chenango	Brisben	32	0	

B. ***Potato leafhopper in alfalfa.***

County	**Town/Village**	Date	Ht (in)	PLH/sweep	Threshold
Madison	Sullivan 1	8/2		just cut	
Madison	Sullivan 2	8/2		just cut	
Madison	Oneida	8/1	13	0.2	2
Montgomery	Glen 1	8/2	5	0.2	0.5
Montgomery	Glen 2	8/2	10	0.1	1
Schoharie	Cobleskill 1	8/2	18	0.65	2*
Schoharie	Cobleskill 2	8/2	24	1.05	2*
Schoharie	Sharon Springs	8/2	18	0.5	2*
Chenango	Guilford	8/1	20	1.8	2*

No action needed within a week of harvest.