Cornell Cooperative Extension

Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops

Field Crop Update 7 June 2023

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

1. Field Observations

The Update is a day early this week, so we won't have the latest US Drought Monitor map (updated every Thursday). But even with the recent rain events, our hayfields and pastures are showing the effects of the lack of rain to this point. Some patches or entire fields may have gone dormant from the lack of moisture. So if you're getting close to your second-cut timing and the regrowth has been negligible, is it better to cut, or not to cut?

Like most things, this depends. Mostly on the amount of regrowth you've seen since your last cutting. If you haven't seen much of anything since your last cut, you may be wasting time and diesel. But Dairy Forage Systems Specialist Joe Lawrence (PRO-DAIRY) reminds us that clipping forages that have "shut down" due to drought can stimulate growth (this response may be more pronounced in alfalfa than in grass, though alfalfa is more drought-tolerant to begin with due to its deep roots), but only if there is enough moisture to support that new growth. Clipping grasses before the return of moisture is unlikely to cause much regrowth because the conditions that induced dormancy in the first place are still present. But once moisture returns, cutting will cause grass stands to fill out by tillering, though the full effect of that tillering may not be immediate. By the time you read this, most places in our region will have seen some rain, and will have more in the forecast. So keep an eye on your hayfields as they reach your desired maturity and decide whether it's worth it to cut *and harvest* or just to cut in order to jump-start their regrowth. While it may be tempting to do so, don't continue to hold out until "there's enough to harvest", because you may be harvesting a ton of undigestible fiber. And above all, *do not* give in to the temptation to cut the stand short to try and squeeze the stand for whatever you can get. This will only exacerbate the stress, delaying regrowth and recovery until even later, and will result in increased levels of undigestible fiber and ash.

Here's some more reading on managing drought-stressed forages:
https://u.osu.edu/beef/2012/08/29/managing-drought-stressed-hay-fields/
https://extension.psu.edu/to-mow-or-not-to-mow
https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/forage-alternatives-for-livestock-in-drought-years
https://extension.psu.edu/managing-horse-pasture-during-and-after-a-drought

2. Growing Degree Days (*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:***

June 6, 2023			Planting Date: May 1 (*Base 86/50*)				Planting Date: May 8 (*Base 86/50*)			
Location	Elevation (ft)	Latitude N	year to date	15 yr avg	30 yr avg	Record L-H	year to date	15 yr avg	30 yr avg	Record L-H
Poland	675	43.23	**358**	373	342	195-458	**333**	326	293	174-392
Canastota	420	43.08	**420**	438	404	263-532	**358**	380	344	224-447
Saratoga Springs	365	43.08	**390**	419	388	249-499	**349**	364	332	219-454
Frankfort	530	43.03	**393**	424	394	240-511	**363**	369	335	211-440
Galway	749	43.02	**360**	403	377	249-479	**328**	349	321	219-437
St Johnsville	650	43	**349**	380	355	220-460	**324**	332	303	195-419
Fenner	1480	42.97	**355**	368	334	203-480	**332**	322	286	176-393
Fultonville	489	42.95	**368**	418	386	246-507	**337**	363	329	219-449
Bouckville	1170	42.93	**358**	375	340	207-470	**332**	327	291	178-385
Richfield Springs	1580	42.85	**332**	355	333	200-442	**311**	309	284	177-388
Cherry Valley	758	42.81	**319**	345	324	202-427	**298**	301	277	179-391
Burlington	1959	42.72	**323**	343	327	203-426	**303**	298	278	181-380
Sherburne	1115	42.69	**374**	403	369	222-484	**347**	349	315	194-409
Cobleskill	937	42.68	**347**	388	360	234-473	**318**	337	307	204-432
Oneonta	1107	42.47	**323**	337	327	204-424	**303**	292	278	179-382
Oxford	1499	42.4	**322**	368	342	211-459	**302**	318	292	182-393
Bainbridge	1000	42.3	**346**	385	360	222-477	**324**	332	307	195-412

June 6, 2023			Planting Date: May 15 (*Base 86/50*)				Planting Date: May 22 (*Base 86/50*)			
Location	Elevation (ft)	Latitude N	year to date	15 yr avg	30 yr avg	Record L-H	year to date	15 yr avg	30 yr avg	Record L-H
Poland	675	43.23	**262**	272	237	116-358	**211**	200	176	91-282
Canastota	420	43.08	**309**	315	278	148-402	**241**	233	208	111-321
Saratoga Springs	365	43.08	**270**	302	269	158-367	**210**	223	201	119-306
Frankfort	530	43.03	**285**	307	270	148-390	**225**	226	201	113-307
Galway	749	43.02	**254**	290	259	156-360	**199**	215	194	117-305
St Johnsville	650	43	**355**	278	245	140-347	**202**	205	182	106-281
Fenner	1480	42.97	**272**	270	232	115-369	**219**	201	174	87-301
Fultonville	489	42.95	**262**	303	267	156-382	**206**	224	199	117-302
Bouckville	1170	42.93	**270**	274	236	120-359	**215**	204	176	91-292
Richfield Springs	1580	42.85	**247**	259	229	124-327	**198**	191	170	95-265
Cherry Valley	758	42.81	**237**	254	225	130-325	**189**	187	168	96-263
Burlington	1959	42.72	**244**	250	225	124-315	**195**	184	166	93-260
Sherburne	1115	42.69	**280**	292	255	131-359	**220**	217	190	101-287
Cobleskill	937	42.68	**253**	282	249	155-360	**199**	209	186	105-285
Oneonta	1107	42.47	**243**	245	224	122-318	**192**	180	166	94-252
Oxford	1499	42.4	**246**	266	236	129-332	**195**	196	176	99-269
Bainbridge	1000	42.3	**260**	278	248	142-349	**207**	205	185	108-284

3. Pest and disease monitoring

Cereal Leaf Beetle

Be on the lookout if you've had problems in the past. Numbers are increasing each year, all over the state.

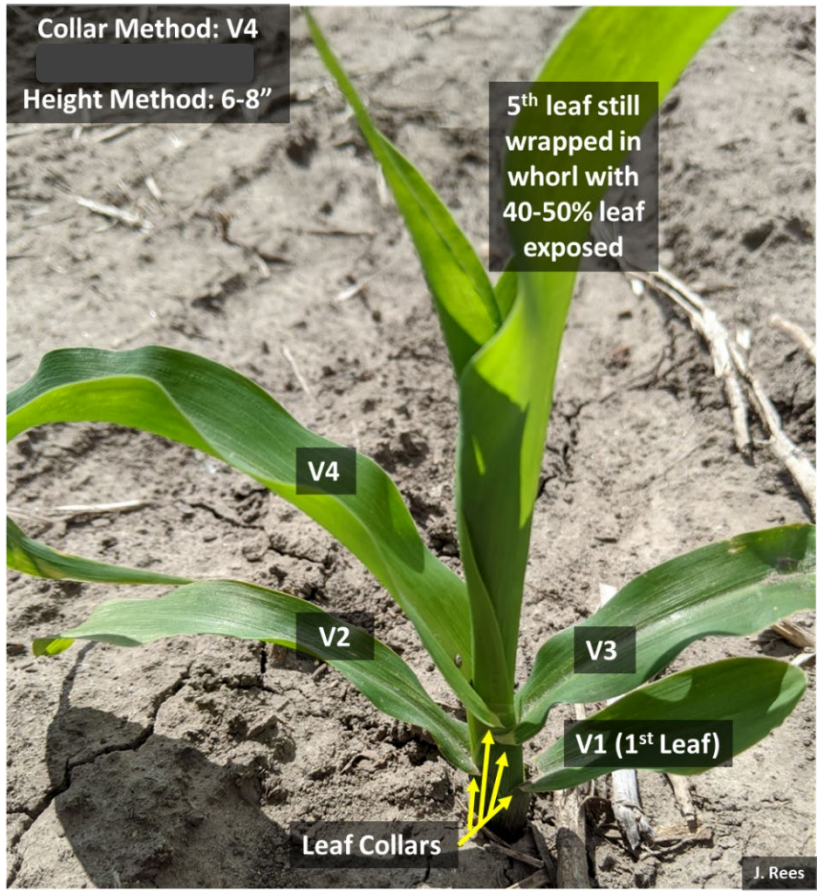
Alfalfa weevil

Jeff Miller (Agronomist, CCE-Oneida) is reporting damage from alfalfa weevil, so be on the lookout. For more, see his report

Black cutworm (BCW) and True armyworm (TAW)

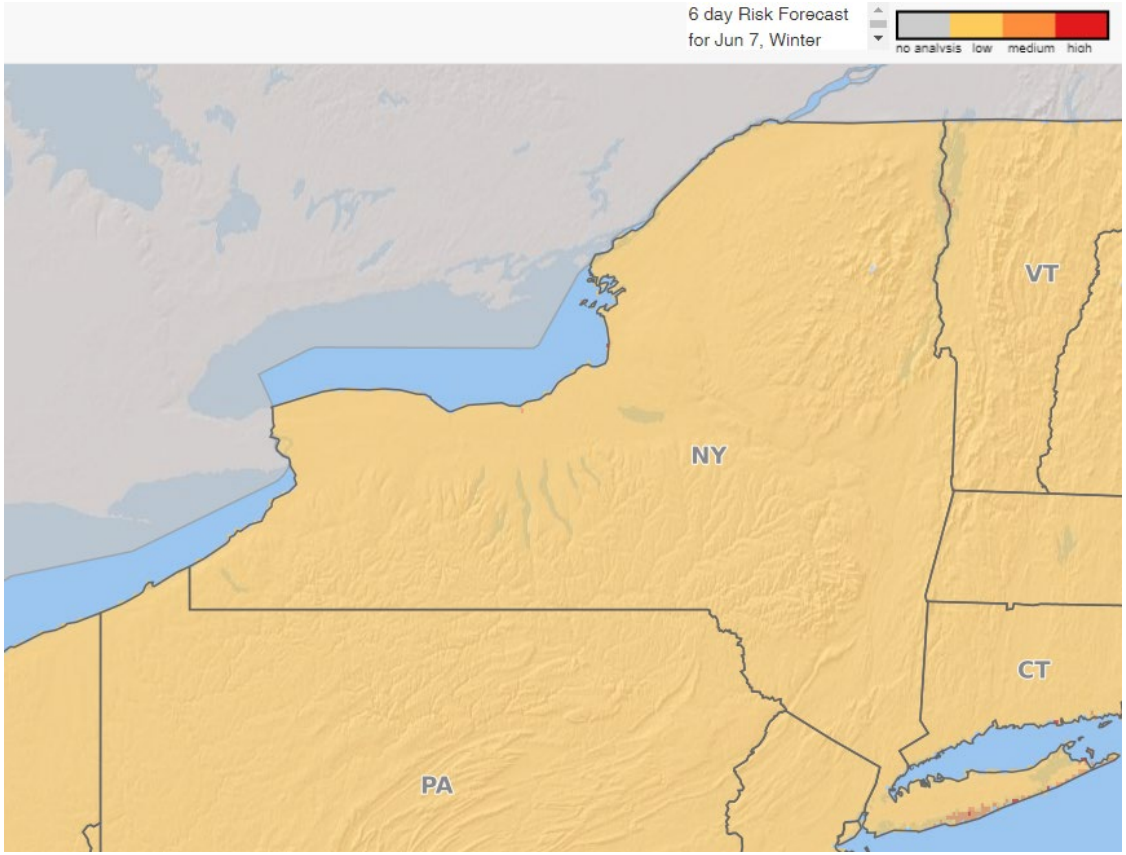
Numbers are down again this week, but we have reports of black cutworm damage from western NY, so check your fields until V6 (~12") for cutworm damage.

	Trap checked:	23 May		30 May		6 June	
County	**Town**	**BCW**	**TAW**	**BCW**	**TAW**	**BCW**	**TAW**
Chenango	Greene	2	0	0	0	0	0
Otsego	Middlefield	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montgomery	Canajoharie	13	1	1	0	0	1
Montgomery	Glen	3	0	4	0	2	0
Saratoga	Charlton	16	0	1	0	1	0
Herkimer	Russia	8	0	3	1	1	0
Madison	Stockbridge	1	0	0	0	0	0



Fusarium head blight in winter grains

As winter grains begin and continue to flower, now would be the time to decide whether to protect crops from fusarium head blight. According to the Fusarium Risk Tool (https://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/), the 6-day risk forcast in our region is currently **low**:



NY Jun 1, 2023

Gary Bergstrom, Extension Plant Pathologist, Cornell University

Winter wheat heads have emerged from the boot nearly everywhere and many are now flowering (yellow anthers visible) in fields across New York State. This is a critical time for making a fungicide spray decision. The fungicide products Caramba, Miravis Ace, Prosaro, Prosaro Plus, and Sphaerex are each labeled on wheat in New York and are effective in suppression of Fusarium head blight (FHB) and deoxynivalenol (DON) mycotoxin contamination. An application of these fungicide products should be based on FHB risk as well as the risks of powdery mildew, rusts, and fungal leaf blotches in the upper canopy based on scouting of individual fields. There is an application window of approximately 7 days starting at beginning of flowering in which reasonable FHB and DON suppression can be expected. Though the calculated risk of FHB infection is currently low due to dry conditions, the risk level may change in following days. Also consider microenvironments near lakes, in river valleys and next to woods that tend to have persistent dew, and other fields that have a history of mycotoxin contamination. Check the Fusarium Risk Assessment Tool (www.w.heatscab.psu.edu/) and your local weather forecast frequently.

You are invited to attend Cornell's 35th Annual Small Grains Management Field Day at Fleur De Lis Brewery in Seneca Falls on June 8. Visit https://cals.cornell.edu/2023-small-grains-managment-field-day to view the agenda and pre-register (free)!