

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops

Field Crop Update September 30, 2021

1. Field Observations
2. Growing Degree Days and Weather Outlook

1. Field Observations

The gorgeous weather of the last few days has allowed a lot of forage acreage to be harvested while soybeans continue to wait on deck. The radar shows some scattered showers in Chenango County, but it's mostly-cloudy skies for the rest of us.

Temperatures will dip into the **30s** for some of us tonight, and while there are no active frost advisories I don't think any of us would be shocked if we woke up to a light glaze in the low spots on an October morning. Skies will clear up and winds will die down, so the forecast temps may be optimistic. We shall see....

So before the frost does eventually come, here are some resources on what to keep in mind for your [alfalfa crop](#) and [corn/soy crops](#).

Corn silage harvest around the region should be wrapping up soon. While nearly all the areas and silking dates in Section 2 are past the prime harvest conditions, you will be in the *ballpark* if you know your GDDs for your hybrid to physiological maturity (black layer) and then subtract 150 GDDs.

And of course, there is still time to plant winter grains and cereal cover crops! Winter wheat and rye will have no trouble this fall, as temperatures are expected to stay above normal through November (though higher temps are one of our "new normals").

This will be the last regular CNY Field Crop Update for 2021, but I will be sure to pass along timely information as needed. Hopefully we'll see you at the winter meetings!

Happy (and safe) harvesting!

Click to see the latest [Oneida County Scouting Report](#), [Northwest NY Crop Alert](#), [Capital Area Ag Report](#), and [New York State IPM Weekly Field Crops Pest Report \(cornell.edu\)](#)

2. Growing Degree Days (GDD) for planting date and silking date ([Climate Smart Farming Growing Degree Day Calculator](#))

For corn silage, we are using base 50/86, as corn development starts at 50F and ceases above 86F. Silage corn needs 750-800 GDD (depending on hybrid maturity) after silking to reach a whole plant DM of 32%. Remember that we can expect to accumulate 20-25 GDD per day, or even up to 30, so this is not a large window. **Under typical late season dry down conditions we can expect the crop to reach 35% DM four to seven days later. Check your crop to see how close you may be to harvest:**

Call your backup and make your plans (you will be at 35% DM anywhere between 5 – 11 days from now)

Gas up the harvester and the trucks (you're chopping in 2 – 8 days)

See you in the field (DM is likely in the optimal 32-38% range)

It's either in the bunk or it's going in the bin (or wait to harvest high-moisture corn) (DM% is likely higher than 38-40% at this point)

As of: <u>22 Sept 2021</u> (Base: 86/50)			Planting Date				Silking Date (750-800 GDD to 32% DM):			
Location	Elevation (ft)	Latitude N	April 26	May 10	May 17	May 24	July 14	July 18	July 22	July 26
Poland	675	43.23	2241	2190	2141	2027	Past	Past	Past	1020
Canastota	420	43.08	2580	2514	2457	2330	Past	Past	Past	Past
S'toga Springs	365	43.08	2514	2434	2367	2235	Past	Past	Past	Past
Frankfort	530	43.03	2503	2437	2382	2258	Past	Past	Past	Past
Galway	749	43.02	2395	2326	2263	2135	Past	Past	Past	Past
St Johnsville	650	43	2261	2206	2156	2038	Past	Past	Past	1013
Fenner	1480	42.97	2266	2211	2169	2053	Past	Past	Past	1033
Fultonville	489	42.95	2406	2340	2280	2158	Past	Past	Past	Past
Bouckville	1170	42.93	2294	2236	2193	2076	Past	Past	Past	1042
R'field Springs	1580	42.85	2133	2078	2036	1924	Past	Past	1020	960
Cherry Valley	758	42.81	2090	2037	1995	1886	Past	Past	994	936
Burlington	1959	42.72	2058	2003	1964	1856	Past	Past	974	923
Sherburne	1115	42.69	2408	2337	2289	2168	Past	Past	Past	Past
Cobleskill	937	42.68	2324	2259	2205	2087	Past	Past	Past	1049
Oneonta	1107	42.47	1990	1931	1893	1787	Past	999	946	888
Oxford	1499	42.4	2040	1979	1939	1836	Past	Past	978	925
Bainbridge	1000	42.3	2213	2143	2099	1991	Past	Past	Past	1002

Not everyone planted their corn on one of the planting dates or in one of the locations I have listed, so this chart shows the estimated GDD for each location on each potential planting date in between (based on the actual GDD on those four dates). The locations are ordered top-to-bottom from lowest elevation to highest (the number after the location name is the elevation in feet above sea level). So if your farm is near one of the locations on this list but there's a location here that more closely matches your elevation, try that instead. You can find GDDs for your own specific location and planting date using the [Climate Smart Farming CSF Growing Degree Day Calculator](#), but for those who might have more difficulty using that tool, maybe this chart can help.

Estimated total GDD (86/50) by planting date for each location

