



# Cornell University Cooperative Extension

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*Commercial Horticulture  
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## **Capital Area Ag Report June 22, 2011**

**“Open your arms to change, but don’t let go  
of your values.” — Dalai Lama**

### **Announcements**

**Thursday, 7 July, 8:30—Noon—2011 CORNELL SEED  
GROWERS FIELD DAY**—For Seed Growers, Seed Treatment  
Applicators, and other Seed Professionals. At the NYSIP Founda-  
tion Seed Barn, 791 Dryden Rd., Rt. 366, Ithaca, NY. Contact  
Aaron Gabriel for an agenda, 518-380-1496.

### **Strategic Marketing Workshops for Livestock Producers**

Cornell Cooperative Extension has developed a series of 4 workshops that will teach the basics of strategic marketing, including how to identify a target market and focus your farm’s marketing efforts. You will also learn how to choose the markets that meet the needs of your farm, such as CSA, farmers’ market and wholesale. Each participant will develop components of a marketing plan and create marketing materials.

While this series is tailored specifically to the marketing of meats and other livestock products, it will benefit any farm looking to improve their marketing efforts. The "Strategic Marketing Workshops for Livestock Producers" series is supported by the Cornell Small Farms Program. To learn more about "Strategic Marketing Workshops for Livestock Producers" or other opportunities for small farms in New York, visit

[www.smallfarms.cornell.edu](http://www.smallfarms.cornell.edu)

The four part series costs \$10 per farm (up to 2 people) per session or \$30 for the series of 4 workshops. For more information, contact: Matt LeRoux, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, (607) 272-2292 or by email at [mnl28@cornell.edu](mailto:mnl28@cornell.edu)

***Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities***  
*Cornell Cooperative Extension provides  
equal program and employment opportunities*

## Weather Data—June 21, 2011

	Argyle		Easton		White-hall		Jackson	
	2011	ave. '99-'10	2011	ave. '99-'10	2011	ave. '99-'10	2011	ave. '03-'10
<b>Rain past week</b>	<b>0.00</b>	0.76	<b>0.35</b>	0.74	<b>0.06</b>	0.92	<b>0.70</b>	0.70
So far this month	<b>1.58</b>	2.62	<b>1.70</b>	3.05	<b>1.46</b>	3.55	<b>1.63</b>	2.45
Total since April 1st	<b>12.05</b>	8.90	<b>11.05</b>	9.54	<b>10.13</b>	10.22	<b>12.15</b>	8.53
<b>GDD Base 41</b> Growing Degree Days = [hi temp + low temp]/2 - 41								
Week 40	<b>153</b>	183	<b>176</b>	183	<b>199</b>	197	<b>178</b>	190
YTD 40	<b>1247</b>	1211	<b>1348</b>	1285	<b>1335</b>	1386	<b>1311</b>	1267
<b>GDD 86/50</b> [hi temp + low temp]/2 - 50, High's >86° F are set to 86° F, low's <50° F are set to 50° F								
Week 86/50	<b>103</b>	121	<b>118</b>	121	<b>136</b>	133	<b>120</b>	127
YTD 85/50	<b>808</b>	812	<b>903</b>	893	<b>839</b>	918	<b>843</b>	886

Dates and Times: Each session runs from 6:30-8:30 PM, Wednesdays, July 6, 13, & 20 with a follow up session at each location (date varies).

**Session 1**, July 6: Introduction to Strategic Marketing: Identifying a Target Market; **Session 2**, July 13: Communicating with Customers; **Session 3**, July 20: A Guide to Marketing Channel Selection; **Session 4**, date varies by location: Review and Critique of Your Marketing Materials

### LOCATIONS:

1. CCE Saratoga County, 50 West High Street, Ballston Spa. Registration contact: (518) 885-8995 or email Paula Schafer at [pjb11@cornell.edu](mailto:pjb11@cornell.edu)
2. CCE- Dutchess County, classes held at: Dutchess County Farm and Home Center, 2715 Route 44, Millbrook. Registration contact: (845) 677-8223, extension 118 or email Jennifer Fimbel at [jlf20@cornell.edu](mailto:jlf20@cornell.edu)

## Trading Post

APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR GRAZING AND AGRONOMY EXTENSION POSITIONS IN LAKE CHAMPLAIN WATERSHED. The University of Vermont (UVM) Extension is currently seeking applicants for two new outreach specialist positions to work with farmers in the Lake Champlain watershed. Applications are now being accepted for immediate work in the region as part of a Natural Resources Conservation

Service (NRCS) Strategic Watershed Action Team initiative. The SWAT Specialists will be stationed in the Middlebury Extension office and work with farmers throughout the lake region. These full-time positions will be funded for three years and include a benefits package and travel funds. Interested applicants may apply for the UVM Extension positions through the UVM employment web site at [www.uvmjobs.com](http://www.uvmjobs.com) under **job posting #0040042** for the Agronomy position or **job posting #0040043** for the Grazing Specialist position. For more information, contact Jeff Carter, UVM Extension, at (802) 388-4969, ext. 332, or by e-mail at [jeff.carter@uvm.edu](mailto:jeff.carter@uvm.edu).

### Crops & Soils...Aaron Gabriel

Lots of work has been done all over the region in the past week—planting corn & soybeans, hay, spraying, even hay seedings. Take the time to check your fields. Early detection of problems makes it much easier to find the correct culprit.

A week earlier, I saw an alfalfa weevil infestation that looked threatening. This week, the threat is gone. Some problems do resolve themselves, but others do not. Timeliness is important. So, this week, take the time to check your fieldwork that you have done over the past month.

I have seen **bird damage** in a couple of fields. One solution, (not proven) is to broadcast some oats near a field edge. The birds may be more attracted to the oats on top of the ground, rather than what is under the soil. There is a blueberry grower in Saratoga county that plants a field of oats near his blueberries. The oats mature at the same time as the berries and help keep the birds out of the blueberries.

Are **deer knocking down your temporary fence wires?** One possible solution (again not proven), something I do, is to rub a scented candle along the fence wire. That way, at night when the deer can not see the wire, they can smell it first, and not walk through it.



### View from the Field

There are reports of black cutworm causing economic losses to field corn. In one case cutworm caused up to 80% loss in a corn field. Other parts of the county are reporting similar issues with black cutworm. Make sure to look for cutworms in your corn fields. The signs of cutworm are plants cut off at the base of the plant or higher. During the day larvae burrow into the soil next to the corn plant or hide under crop residue.



Black Cutworm and Damage

While scouting the Cornell University Research Farm in Valatie I found a substantial amount of a corn seed picked out of the ground by birds. As seen below the “Pitting” is caused by birds trying to get the seed out of the ground. When seed is planted too shallow the birds can dig them out. When seed is planted 2 inches deep the birds find it difficult to dig them out and give-up.



Mike Hunter in Jefferson County reports the discovery of brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB). This was confirmed by the Cornell University Hudson Valley Research Lab. This is the farthest north this new insect pest has been found in NY. This new insect pest was first documented in NY in the Hudson Valley Region in 2008. Here is a link to a

photo of BMSB: <http://www.entomology.cornell.edu/cals/entomology/extension/idl/upload/Brown-Marmorated-Stink-Bug-LINKS.pdf>

Mike Stanyard reports some wheat fields with limited amounts of fusarium head blight. He stated that 1 or 2 heads/hundred were infected. Diseased wheat heads exhibit premature bleaching as the pathogen progresses. Over time, the premature bleaching of the spikelets may progress throughout the entire head. If the environment is warm and moist, aggregations of light pink/salmon colored spores may appear on the rachis and glumes of individual spikelets. Later in the season, bluish-black spherical bodies may appear on the surface of affected spikelets.

Soybean aphid has been reported in some soybean fields in western NY. These are winged aphids and most likely came from buckthorn their overwintering host plant. Buckthorn is a plant that can be found in hedge rows and forests statewide. Soybean aphids coming from buckthorn are local overwintering populations. We also get soybean aphids that ride weather fronts from the south and southwest that can infest our fields.

### Soybean Seed Rots and Seedling Blight

Ken Wise, NYS IPM

Many different organisms cause seed rot and seedling blights. Most of these organisms are soil-borne and a few are seed-borne. Most seed rots and seedling blights proliferate in poorly drained, cold (less than 58 degrees) and wet soils.

**Seed Rot:** Many times the infected seed will not germinate. If the seed does germinate the radicle will become infected and rot. The rot can be tan, brown, gray or black and the seed or radicle will appear wet and mushy. Some of the organisms that infect seed are *Pythium*, *Fusarium*, and *Rhizoctonia*.

**Seedling blight:** It is difficult to determine which pathogen causes seedling blight in any one field. Many times it can be a complex of *Pythium*, *Rhizoctonia* and *Phytophthora*. *Pythium* can cause the seedlings to have a wet, rotted appearance, while *Phytophthora* generally appears as a dry, dark rot on the roots. Sunken, reddish-brown lesions on the hypocotyls is most likely a *Rhizoctonia* infection. The *Rhizoctonia* lesions are small when they first appear. As these lesions grow they can girdle the stem, causing the soybean plant to die. If the *Rhizoctonia* infected seedlings do not kick the bucket the infection will weaken the stem and may cause the plant to lodge after the pods form.

### Clipboard Checklist

Keith Waldron, NYS IPM

#### General

- \*Emergency contact information ("911", local hospital, Chem. Spill emergency contact, other?) posted in central posting area
- \*Maintain crop records by field, including variety, planting date, pesticides used, nutrient inputs including manure, etc.
- \*Walk fields to check crop condition, growth, and emergence. Look for signs of vertebrate pests (birds, ground hogs, deer, etc.).
- \*Mow around farm buildings to minimize rodent and other pest habitat

#### Alfalfa and Grass Hay:

- \*Monitor alfalfa for crop condition, watch re-growth for alfalfa weevil, potato leafhopper, and diseases.
- \*Evaluate alfalfa seedings for weeds, insects (potato leafhopper) & diseases.

#### Small Grains:

- \*Monitor winter grain fields for crop growth stage, signs and symptoms of diseases, weed

pressure, insects (cereal leaf beetle)

\*Monitor winter wheat for foliar & grain head diseases, potential for Fusarium Head Blight

### **Field Corn:**

\*Post emergence: Determine corn plant populations, monitor for emergence problems, weeds, noting presence of "who", "how many" and "where"

\*Early season corn pests: seedling blights, seed corn maggot, white grub, wireworm, black cutworm, slugs, birds

\*Adjust post emergence weed control actions

### **Soybeans:**

\*Post emergence: Determine plant populations, monitor for germination and emergence problems, monitor for weeds, noting presence of "who", "how many" and "where"

\*Monitor for soybean aphid

### **Pastures:**

\*Check and mend fences as needed.

\*Check crop growth

\*Check for presence of undesirable plant species harmful to livestock.

\*Review/Plan rotation system

### **Equipment:**

\*Arrange for custom weed / disease management or check your own application or cultivator equipment for readiness or need for repairs.

\*Check nozzles, pumps, etc., recalibrate pesticide application equipment regularly before use.

\*Calibrate manure spreaders - maintain records on amount spread per field

### **Cattle on Pasture:**

\*Monitor animals for presence of face flies, horn flies and stable flies. Action guidelines: face flies (average 10 per animal face), horn flies (average 50 / dairy, 200 / beef cattle per animal side), stable flies average 10 per animal (all four legs)

\*Check feed bunk / water source locations for signs of stable fly breeding (moist undisturbed

organic matter – spilled feed, round bales, etc.), minimize source of moist organic matter i.e. fly breeding areas in barn and in adjacent animal loafing yard

\*Check paddocks for forage quality / quantity, rotate as appropriate

\*Check paddocks for vegetation poisonous to livestock

\*Consider use of fly traps to help reduce deer, horse and stable fly populations

### **Dairy Cattle Barn Fly Management:**

\*Monitor animals and barn area for house fly, stable fly and other pest management needs including presence of rodents and birds.

\*Check facilities for favorable fly breeding conditions: (organic matter + moisture): leaks in watering systems, roof gutters for leaks and potential overspill, drainage,

\*Sanitation, sanitation, sanitation - clean animal resting areas, feed troughs, minimize source of moist organic matter i.e. fly breeding areas in barn and in adjacent animal loafing yard \* Continue fly monitoring: install "3X5" index card fly speck monitoring cards throughout barn

\*Use, replenish, replace fly management materials: sticky fly tapes/ribbons, insecticide baits, natural enemies (parasitoids), fly population monitoring (3 x 5) spot cards

\*Consider purchase and release of Muscidifurax raptor and/or M. raptorellus natural enemies of house and stable fly pupae.

### **PESTICIDE EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

Emergency responder information on pesticide spills and accidents CHEMTREC: 800-424-9300

For pesticide information:

National Pesticide Information Center: 800-858-7378

To Report Oil and Hazardous Material Spills in New York State: NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Spill Response: 800-457-7362 (in NYS); 518-457-7362 (outside NYS)

Poison Control Centers: Poison Control Centers nationwide: 800-222-1222

If you are unable to reach a Poison Control Center or obtain the information your doctor needs, the office of the NYS Pesticide Coordinator at Cornell University, 607-255-1866, may be able to assist you in obtaining such information.

### **Mark Your Calendars**

**Cornell University's Aurora Farm Field Day,** Musgrave Research Farm, 1256 Poplar Ridge Road, Aurora, NY, Thursday July 14, 2011. 10:00am-3:00pm, free registration begins at 9:00.

Aurora Farm Field Day will highlight research demonstrations and presentations of interest to the local farming community. Details on program topics forthcoming.

### **Cornell University's Weed Days – Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>**

Morning program at the Thompson Vegetable Farm in Freeville and afternoon program at the Musgrave Research Farm in Aurora. DEC and CCA credits available.

For more information regarding these meetings, please contact Larissa Smith at [lls14@cornell.edu](mailto:lls14@cornell.edu) or 607-255-2177