**Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County to Host Workshops:**

**Save The Date! – Early August (TBD)**

Small grains tailgate meeting.
The topic will include small grains issues relevant to this year’s and future crops. Topics will cover pests, diseases and harvesting issues going on throughout the region. All farmers who plant and harvest small grains or have issues that are affecting their farm, are encouraged to come out and join us for this meeting.

**Save The Date! – Look for dates in August (TBD)**

Farming Fundamentals
Attend a series of three workshops that cover the legal aspects of operating a farm, the business and finance aspects to consider, and how to market your product for continued success. Anyone interested in farming or is already farming and would like to learn the latest information in farm business management.
A new foliar disease of wheat was found in New York in summer 2015. The disease was spotted in Monroe County at a regional wheat variety trial conducted as part of the Cornell Small Grains Project under the direction of Mark Sorrells. The Cornell Field Crops Pathology Program lead by Gary Bergstrom first identified the pathogen and has continued to study this disease. Symptoms are distinct from other foliar diseases of wheat, and lesions resemble those of scald on barley, i.e., with bleached white centers and dark borders. Damage occurs primarily on leaves but can also be seen on spikes and occasionally stems (Figures 1-3). We are calling this new disease ‘Alternaria leaf spot’ as it is caused by fungal isolates shown by matching DNA sequences to belong within the diverse Alternaria infectoria species group. This group includes fungi with no demonstrated pathogenic ability as well some wheat pathogens known to cause disease outbreaks that range from minor to severe in other countries. Yet no previous report of fungi in this species group has been associated with the very distinctive foliar lesions we have observed in New York.
Alternaria leaf spot was confirmed in Monroe County, at two separated sites near Lake Ontario, during the past two growing seasons. We are now confirming a likely reoccurrence in Monroe Co. in 2017. We are also using comparative DNA sequencing to determine if the same pathogen was the cause of unusual glume symptoms observed on winter wheat in Jefferson County, also near Lake Ontario, in 2015. Though not confirmed outside of a small geographic area, the disease has occurred in both variety trial plots and commercial fields. All the varieties observed at these locations, over 60 soft white and red winter wheats, have been susceptible to the pathogen. Damage to the flag leaf in severely impacted fields may be significant enough to cause a reduction in yield. However, the disease seems to require an unusually long period of leaf wetness to develop, which may explain why we are finding the disease in maritime environments with persistent fog and dew. No information exists at this time about the efficacy of foliar fungicides against this pathogen and no fungicides are registered for this use. Further research into the pathogen’s complete distribution, inoculum sources, and appropriate management strategies is ongoing. For now, we recommend continuing to scout fields and managing more common pathogens as necessary.

The recent discovery of Alternaria leaf spot in New York is the first recorded incidence of the disease in the United States. We suspect that this disease is more widespread than we currently know. We are cooperating with wheat pathologists in other states to diagnose symptoms they have observed that are similar to those that we have attributed to Alternaria leaf spot in New York. If you encounter symptoms of Alternaria leaf spot, please contact your local field crops extension educator or the Cornell Field Crops Pathology Program.

Acknowledgements:
Funding for this work is provided by USDA-NIFA Hatch grant NYC153436, and the Mycological Society of America through the Emory Simmons Research Award.

NYS IPM Weekly Field Crops Pest Report: June 08, 2017
Posted on June 9, 2017 by Kenneth Wise
Volume 16 Number 6

View from the Field
Armyworm and Black Cutworm Alert!!
There are many reports of true armyworm and black cutworm over threshold in corn fields in NY. It is very important to get out and scout for them. Look for signs of both insect pests. They have different ways of feeding on corn. Black cutworm feeding looks likes armyworm feeding for instars 1-3. They will feed from the leaf margin to the midrib. In the late 4th instar black cutworm will cut the plant off at the soil surface.

Fig 3. Three leaves with different levels of disease severity. Photo by Michael Fulcher.

Armyworm Damage
Black Cutworm Damage

For more detailed information view the following article on armyworm and black cutworm:
Black Cutworm in Field Corn
True Armyworm (aka common armyworm)

Potato Leafhopper Found!
Potato Leafhopper has been identified in NY this year. Currently they are at very low levels and most likely will not cause problems in alfalfa.

Small Grains Foliar Diseases
We have found several early season small grains diseases this season. With the wet cool weather we have found powdery mildew, rusts and stagonospora nodorum blotch. These diseases can cause yield losses if not checked for severity. I published an article on these diseases earlier in the season. For more information view: Early Season Small Grains Diseases

Fusarium Head Blight Commentary,
June 2, 2017
Dr. Gary Bergstrom,
Extension Plant Pathologist, Cornell University

The risk of Fusarium head blight and DON contamination is moderate to severe for winter wheat flowering in much of New York at this time. General rains are expected again on Sunday. The triazole products Caramba and Prosaro are the most effective fungicides for suppression of FHB and DON contamination when applied at flowering (emergence of anthers on heads). There is an application window of approximately 7 days from the beginning of flowering in which reasonable FHB suppression can be expected. A flowering application of triazole fungicide should be based on Fusarium head blight (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. Each has been observed in certain fields. Consider especially the regional risk of stripe rust as it is beginning to be observed in diverse areas of western New York and we continue to have conducive conditions for stripe rust infection. Fungicide products containing strobilurins should not be applied to headed wheat or barley as they may result in increased levels of DON in grain. Check the Fusarium Risk Assessment Tool (http://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/) and your local weather forecast frequently as your winter wheat crop approaches heading and flowering.

Winter malting barley fields are at grain filling stages now and beyond the timing for foliar fungicide application. Spring malting barley fields are mostly at tillering stages now.

How to Identify Fusarium Head Blight in Wheat
Ken Wise, NYS IPM

One of the most devastating diseases of wheat is Scab or also called “Fusarium head blight.” This disease infects the grain head at flowering. The disease builds up in corn, wheat and other grain residues. During the day the spores are carried up into the atmosphere and at night settle out across the landscape. If it rains at flowering and spores are present there is a good chance the grain will become infected with the disease. The first symptoms of Fusarium head blight occur shortly after flowering. Diseased wheat heads exhibit premature bleaching as the pathogen progresses. One or more spikelets located in the top, middle, or bottom of the head may be bleached. 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. As symptoms progress, the fungus...
colonizes the developing grain causing it to shrink and wrinkle inside the head. Often, the infected kernels have a rough, wilted appearance, ranging in color from pink, soft-gray, to light-brown.

Symptoms of Fusarium head blight (photo taken by Dr. Gary Bergstrom)

Degree Day Models for Field Crops across New York
Ken Wise, NYS IPM

Growing degree Days for peak (50%) Occurrence of Alfalfa Weevil growth stage:
(Note: for alfalfa weevil predictions use Base Temp of 48F)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Degree Days (Base 48)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Egg</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instar 1</td>
<td>351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instar 2</td>
<td>395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instar 3</td>
<td>470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instar 4</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocooning</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pupa</td>
<td>725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Emergence</td>
<td>815</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Seed Corn Maggot Peak Flight and Fly Maggot Free Degree Days
Source: Insect IPM for Organic Field Crops: Seed Corn Maggot by Katelin Holm and Eileen Cullen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Base Temp = 39°F</th>
<th>Peak Generation 1st Seed maggot fly free degree days</th>
<th>Peak Generation 2nd Seed maggot fly free degree days</th>
<th>Peak Generation 3rd Seed maggot fly free degree days</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree days</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>810</td>
<td>1080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1530</td>
<td>1800</td>
<td>2250</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Black Cutworm Degree Day Model
Source: University of Minnesota Black Cutworm Trapping Network

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Days</th>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Feeding Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Moth Capture</td>
<td>Egg laying</td>
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<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>Eggs Hatch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91-311</td>
<td>1st to 3rd Instar</td>
<td>Leaf Feeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>312-364</td>
<td>4th Instar</td>
<td>Cutting Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>365-430</td>
<td>5th Instar</td>
<td>Cutting Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>431-640</td>
<td>6th Instar</td>
<td>Cutting Slows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>641-989</td>
<td>Pupa</td>
<td>No Feeding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Springwater Agricultural Products
8663 Strutt Street, Springwater NY
585-315-1094 or 607-759-0405

Crop Production Materials, Foliar Nutrition & Adjuvant Sales
SeedWay, NK&WL, Seed Sales:
Corn, Soybeans, Small Grains, Forage & Pasture Grasses
Sun up until Sun down! Dave & Penny
Farm tested with friendly farm prices.
## 2017 New York Field Crop Pest Degree Day Accumulations for selected locations (June 9, 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station Location</th>
<th>Alfalfa Weevil (Base 48 F) March 1</th>
<th>Allyn Cutworm (Base 50 F) April 20</th>
<th>Seed Corn Maggot (Base 39 F) January 1</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ceres</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>1242</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chazy</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>1017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geneva</td>
<td>546</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>1259</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highland</td>
<td>663</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>1450</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ithaca</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>1167</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madrid</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>1003</td>
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<tr>
<td>Massena</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>980</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ripley</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>421</td>
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<td>Valatie</td>
<td>546</td>
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<td>1243</td>
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<tr>
<td>Versailles</td>
<td>594</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>1369</td>
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<tr>
<td>Watertown</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>1005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Clipboard Checklist

**Keith Waldron, NYS IPM General**

- Walk fields to check general field condition, weed issues, areas of soil erosion
- Watch for early season weeds: winter annuals, chickweed, henbit, field penny cress, shepherd’s purse, giant and common ragweed, purple deadnettle, lambsquarters, redroot pigweed, velvet leaf, Pennsylvania smartweed, common sunflower, quackgrass, foxtail

**Alfalfa:**
- Evaluate established legume stands for approximate days til harvest
- Monitor regrowth for alfalfa weevil, potato leafhopper
- Monitor new seedings for Pythium blight and Phytophthora Root Rot.

**Small Grains:**
- Monitor winter grain fields for growth stage, disease issues, cereal leaf beetle
- Check stands for diseases, cereal leaf beetle, weed escapes

**Corn:**
- Conduct plant population assessments, early season corn pests including seed corn maggot, white grub, wireworm, black cutworm, armyworm, slugs, diseases, weed issues, vertebrate damage
- Monitor wheat for potential risk of fungal disease issues – consult Fusarium Head Blight prediction model

**Soybeans:**
- Post emergence weed evaluation, timely cultivation and/or weed management
- Conduct plant population assessments, early season corn pests including seed corn maggot, slugs, soybean aphid, diseases, weed issues, vertebrate damage

**Pastures:**
- Check and mend fences as needed.
- Check crop growth
- Invasive species, plants harmful to livestock
- Review/Plan rotation system
**Equipment:**
- Remove / clean soil and crop debris from equipment
- Arrange for custom weed control or check your own application or cultivator equipment for repairs.
- Carry appropriate / necessary NYS DEC and EPA required documents: (pesticide applicators license, pesticide labels, MSDS sheets, etc.) with application equipment

**Calibrate:**
- planting equipment – maintain records on planting rate per field
- manure spreaders – maintain records on amount spread per field
- pesticide application equipment – Check nozzles, pumps, etc., recalibrate pesticide application equipment before use.
  Maintain pesticide use records

**Storage:**
- Check stored grain bins for temperature, moisture and signs of mold and insects. Aerate, core, transfer grain or treat as necessary
- Check forage allocation and anticipate feed program adjustments as forages from previous year are used up
- Plan where forages should be stored for optimum allocation next feeding season
- Mow around storage bins and facility to minimize pest hiding places

**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.

**Dairy 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 per animal side, 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 exercise yard.

- Check pasture for forage quality / quantity, rotate as appropriate
- Check pasture for vegetation poisonous to livestock
- Consider use of pasture fly traps to help reduce deer, horse and stable fly populations

**U.S. Beef On Its Way To China**

By Greg Henderson  
Drovers. Editorial Director

American beef is on its way to China for the first time in 14 years. Nebraska’s Greater Omaha Packing Company announced today it was sending beef by air freight to a customer in Shanghai.

At a press event this morning, Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts and Nebraska Department of Agriculture Director Greg Ibach joined Greater Omaha Packing Chief Executive Henry Davis to load the first box of beef destined for China.

Greater Omaha vice president of sales and marketing Dan Jensen said the first shipment was about 40 boxes of steaks – ribeyes, tenderloins and New York strips – sent as a test.

“We want to know how the process works,” he told the Lincoln Journal Star. "This will be the first of many shipments."

On Monday, USDA announced final details concerning export requirements to resume beef shipments to China. Among the requirements, U.S. producers must track the birthplace of cattle born in the United States that are destined for export to China.

“Greater Omaha is one of the great Nebraska companies that is helping us grow our state here by helping promote our No. 1 industry, which is beef,” said Ricketts.

Davis said Greater Omaha Packing has hired bilingual marketers and taken hundreds of calls in recent months from Chinese companies looking to import U.S. beef.

**Dairy Farmers Challenged by Cool Spring**

**Weather delayed planting of corn, other crops, cutting of hay for livestock feed**

*RICHMOND, Vt. (AP) — Following dry and drought conditions last summer, Northeast farmers are facing the opposite challenge: a rainy, cool spring that has delayed the planting of corn and other crops and the cutting of hay for livestock feed.*

The wet conditions in previous weeks had prevented them from driving equipment onto fields to plant crops or cut hay, which means some dairy farmers may need to buy supplemental feed for their cows. *(Wikimedia Commons)*

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New Hampshire farmers are facing similar challenges, following a year in which a long-running drought prompted the state legislature to pass a measure providing $2 million in emergency funding for the dairy farmers hurt by the dry conditions. Some farmers were forced to reduce their herds to save money.

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RICHMOND, Vt. (AP) — Following dry and drought conditions last summer, Northeast farmers are facing the opposite challenge: a rainy, cool spring that has delayed the planting of corn and other crops and the cutting of hay for livestock feed.

The wet conditions in previous weeks had prevented them from driving equipment onto fields to plant crops or cut hay, which means some dairy farmers may need to buy supplemental feed for their cows. The weather, however, has been a boon for crops like peaches and apples.

“In some ways we’re looking at the prospect of potentially having to supplement more than a normal year,” said Ransom Conant, of Conant’s Riverside Farm, on Tuesday before he headed out to cut an overly mature alfalfa and grass crop that had already flowered or gone to seed.

New Hampshire farmers are facing similar challenges, following a year in which a long-running drought prompted the state legislature to pass a measure providing $2 million in emergency funding for the dairy farmers hurt by the dry conditions. Some farmers were forced to reduce their herds to save money.
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“Well, the drought is over. But the pendulum has swung a little too far,” Lorraine Merrill, the New Hampshire agricultural commissioner, said. “We did not need all this rain or the cool temperatures that have prevailed through much of the spring season. I think the dairy and other livestock farmers have had the worst impacts.”

Farmers in New Hampshire reported having trouble getting equipment into their fields and were keeping warm weather crops in greenhouse longer before they were being transferred outdoors.

“Usually farms like to have corn planted by around May 20 or so. But there is still ground, a lot of it, that has not been planted … maybe 20-25 percent of the acreage,” Carl Majewski, a field specialist with UNH Cooperative Extension, told the Concord Monitor last week. “It’s not very often that you have a delay like this.”

But as the weather warms, conditions are improving. The U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service concluded last week that hay fields in New York have started to finally dry out and farmers worked around wet, rutted areas, the service said.

Vermont dairy farmer Rosina Wallace acknowledged things are looking up as she lamented that the wet spring kept her from spreading manure on her hay crop, which she said won’t be as good as it could be. She likely will need to buy hay again in March and April.

“You can’t make any money when you don’t have any profit because you’ve got to spend it all on feed,” she said.

Still, her hay crop is looking better than her cow pastures, which didn’t get much regrowth during the cool wet spring.

“The cows were eating it faster than the grass was growing. And now it’s so darned hot, everything is dormant. Right now, I think I’m hurting worse in terms of not having good pasture than I am in terms of my hay,” she said.

See more at: https://www.morningagclips.com/dairy-farmers-challenged-by-cool-spring/#sthash.ylHfzCl4.dpuf

**Reduced Tillage and Cover Crops Have Additive Effect for Improving Soil Health**

June 7, 2017 by Cornell Field Crops

Bob Schindelbeck, Aaron Ristow, Matthew Ryan and Harold van Es

Soil and Crop Sciences Section, School of Integrative Plant Science, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

**Background**

Soil health constraints may significantly limit crop productivity and sustainability in New York. Typically, soils with poor soil health are less resilient to drought and flooding impacts, and are more prone to soil erosion and chemical runoff during heavy rainfall events. Moreover, building and maintaining healthy soils is essential to supporting a robust population of beneficial soil organisms crucial to the cycling of carbon, nitrogen and other plant nutrients, as well as additional biological processes like disease suppression, and root proliferation.

Cornell University led the development of a suite of soil health measurements that focus on optimization of physical, chemical and biological soil properties for sustained productivity and minimal negative impacts on the environment (soilhealth.cals.cornell.edu). Our Comprehensive Assessment of Soil Health (CASH) approach includes a scoring function framework for interpreting soil health laboratory test results and identifying remediation options. Increasingly many farmers, government and non-government organizations, and researchers are interested in understanding how cover crops, reduced tillage, crop rotation, intercropping, and organic amendments help to improve soil health. We are using a long-term tillage study, with recently incorporated cover crops, to quantify the soil health and yield benefits of these practices.

— LISA RATHKE, Associated Press
Procedures

Figure 1. Growth of the cover crop cocktail shown about 6 weeks after interseeding.

Beginning in 1994, continuous corn grain management was implemented on replicated (6) plots on a Lima Silt Loam under strip-till (ST) vs. plow-till (PT) treatments. In 2013, we added cover cropped (CC) vs. no cover crop (NC) management in subplots, for a total of 4 individual treatments (PT-NC, PT-CC, ST-NC, ST-CC). The cover crops were established as a “cocktail” of grasses and legumes (Figure 1) using a drill interseeder in late spring (just after sidedressing nitrogen to the corn). The mix included annual ryegrass (10 lb/a), Red Clover (5 lb/a), Crimson Clover (10 lb/a) and Hairy Vetch (7.5 lb/a). Corn yields were assessed by representative sampling (four twenty-foot long row sections per plot).

In the early spring of the 2016 season we collected a composited CASH soil sample from each of the four tillage x cover crop treatments to get a summary report of the soil health status.

Results

Soil Health Indicators

Table 1 shows the 2016 measured values of the physical and biological soil health parameters for each treatment. We included the continuous sod (sample from adjacent field border) as a benchmark of the soil health potential of these soils. The table uses the same color scheme as in the CASH report to interpret the laboratory values from very low (red) to very high (dark green). These results demonstrate that a change from plow to strip-till resulted in clear benefits for soil health and that combining strip-till with cover cropping had an additive benefit vs. just reducing tillage alone. We observed this pattern for the indicators of Aggregate Stability, Organic Matter, Soil Protein, and Active Carbon, with approximately equal and additive benefits from reduced tillage and cover cropping. For Available Water Capacity and Soil Respiration, however, we observe primary benefits from transition from plow to strip-till, and less benefits from cover cropping. Surface and subsurface hardness (penetrometer measurements) were not affected by these management changes. Overall, it appears that soil health differences between plow-till and no-till are expressed through the physical indicators (Available Water Capacity and Aggregate Stability), while the benefits of the cover crop cocktail are additionally apparent in the biological indicators. Notably, Aggregate Stability, a critical soil physical property, showed substantial additive benefits of tillage and cover cropping changes with a total increase from 17.0 to 57.6% from the conventional (continuous plow-till, no cover crop) treatment to the strip-tilled, cover cropped treatment. The biological indicators of Soil Protein and Active Carbon also demonstrated substantial improvement in measured values (increases of 40% and 24% in measured values, respectively).
As a result, the overall soil health score (Table 1) increased 7 points for strip-till over plow-till (41 to 48 and 49 to 56), and increased 8 points when adding the cover crop cocktail (41 to 49 and 48 to 56), which are remarkably consistent results. It is noteworthy that the cover crop treatment had only been in place for 3 years, while the tillage treatments had been in place for 22 years, suggesting that cover cropping results in faster soil health benefits, especially for biological processes. The sod benchmark comparison shows that none of the corn-based treatments were able to reach soil health values that are similar to an undisturbed and continuously covered reference site, although the strip-till, cover cropped treatment was closest.

Yields
Improved soil health does not always translate into higher crop yields due to annual variations in weather and management. However, for the recent 5 years, we observed an increase of 12 bu/a on average from the strip-till treatments compared to plow till. It is important to note that these results are based on just 3 seasons, and that it is still too early to determine the full extent of yield improvement from the recent addition of cover crops into the rotation.

Conclusions
The results of this study are interesting in that they show measurable soil health increases from reducing tillage over the long term. Adding cover crops resulted in benefits after only a few seasons, and these were observed in addition to the benefits from reducing tillage. This study involved a continuous corn experiment, and showed that the sustainability of such an intensive row crop system can be considerably improved with reduced tillage and the use of cover crops.

Acknowledgements
We are grateful for the funding support from the New York Farm Viability Institute, the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, USDA-NRCS, and the USDA-AFRI Water Quality Grant.

NOFA-NY’S Organic On-Farm Field Days Head Into July
Organic Dairy Transitioning and High Tunnel Tomatoes Are Featured

Farmington, NY— The Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York’s (NOFA-NY) organic on-farm field days are heading into July, with popular topics on the following two dates and locations:

- **Tuesday, July 11, 1-4 pm: Transitioning to Organic Dairy Production.** This field day will provide the basics of transitioning to organic grass-fed dairy production focusing on the Amish community in Allegany County. NOFA-NY, LLC and pioneering organic dairy farmer, Brian Stetson of Maple Hill Creamery will give a no-tech approach to grass-fed milk and organic transition. Location is David Miller Farm, 869 Peet Road, Whitesville, NY 14897 (Allegany County). Please note that there is no cell phone service or personal
photos at this location. This event is produced by NOFA-NY with support from the New York Farm Viability Institute

- **Wednesday, July 12, 5-6 pm: High Tunnel Tomatoes - Early and Mid-season Management for Optimal Health and Productivity.** Long-term organic high tunnel soil health and fertility management is challenging. This field day will discuss best management practices for growing tomatoes in a high tunnel, especially early and peak season management practices. Seth Jacobs of Slack Hollow Farm will share his experiences with tomatoes and how he successfully manages a high tunnel from a long term perspective. NOFA-NY and the Cornell Vegetable Program will discuss what they are learning through the New York Farm Viability Institute funded initiative, “Best Management Practices for Long Term Profitable High Tunnel Soil Fertility and Health.” Location is Slack Hollow Farm, 177 Gilchrist Rd, Argyle, NY 12809 (Washington County). This event is produced by NOFA-NY with support from the New York Farm Viability Institute.


**USDA Halts Import of Fresh Brazilian Beef**

FSIS has refused entry to 11 percent of Brazilian fresh beef products

“Ensuring the safety of our nation’s food supply is one of our critical missions, and it’s one we undertake with great seriousness. Although international trade is an important part of what we do at USDA, and Brazil has long been one of our partners, my first priority is to protect American consumers,” stated Secretary Perdue. (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Flickr/Creative Commons)

WASHINGTON — U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced the suspension of all imports of fresh beef from Brazil because of recurring concerns about the safety of the products intended for the American market. The suspension of shipments will remain in place until the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture takes corrective action which the USDA finds satisfactory.

Since March, USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has been inspecting 100 percent of all meat products arriving in the United States from Brazil. FSIS has refused entry to 11 percent of Brazilian fresh beef products. That figure is substantially higher than the rejection rate of one percent of shipments from the rest of the world. Since implementation of the increased inspection, FSIS has refused entry to 106 lots (approximately 1.9 million pounds) of Brazilian beef products due to public health concerns, sanitary conditions, and animal health issues. It is important to note that none of the rejected lots made it into the U.S. market.

The Brazilian government had pledged to address those concerns, including by self-suspending five facilities from shipping beef to the United States. Today’s action to suspend all fresh beef shipments from Brazil supersedes the self-suspension.

Secretary Perdue issued the following statement: “Ensuring the safety of our nation’s food supply is one of our critical missions, and it’s one we undertake with great seriousness. Although international trade is an important part of what we do at USDA, and Brazil has long been one of our partners, my first priority is to protect American consumers. That’s what we’ve done by halting the import of Brazilian fresh beef. I commend the work of USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service for painstakingly safeguarding the food we serve our families.”

—USDA
Cheese: Milk remains available for cheese production throughout the country. Production is strong in the Northeast and West. Cheese stocks are generally long throughout all regions. Domestic demand reports in the Northeast are moderate to light. The large block to barrel price difference continues to create a feeling of market uncertainty for cheese producers.

Butter: Throughout the United States, the performance of butter sales in print retail and food service is strong. Cream availability is tightening. Some butter producers are tight on cream supplies and with the limited supply, a number of manufacturers are purchasing as many cream spot loads as possible. Production is mixed this week. Some churns are running at full swing to store bulk butter for needs later in the year. Yet, a number of churns are shut off for maintenance and cream supplies are being sold. Stocks are manageable to heavy. Butter demand is steady as butterfat continues to be a primary driving force within the dairy industry.

Fluid Milk: Having reached the Summer Solstice this week, milk production trends are developing in expected ways. New England and Mid-Atlantic milk production volumes are steady to lower. Balancing operations are receiving more milk following schools closing, but volumes are not burdensome.

Dry Products: Central and east low/medium nonfat dry milk prices weakened in the price range and the top of the mostly, while prices in the West moved lower at the top of the range and both ends of the mostly. Dry buttermilk prices slightly increased at the bottom of the price range in the East and Central regions. Northeast dry whey prices in the range moved lower at the bottom and higher at the top. The markets have a weak undertone. Whey protein concentrate 34% prices are steady to lower, with a firm market tone. Lactose prices are steady for the most part, but lower at the bottom of the mostly price series. The market tone is steady to weaker.

Organic Dairy Market News: AMS reports total organic milk products sales for April 2017 were 201 million pounds, down 5.6 percent from the previous April but up 0.6 percent, January-April compared with the same period of 2016. Total organic whole milk products sales for April 2017, 78 million pounds, were up 1.4 percent compared with April last year and up 8.3 percent, January-April compared with the same period of 2016.
Milk prices bottomed out in April. The Class III price was $16.33 in January and fell to $15.22 in April. The May Class III was $15.57 and June could be near $16.40. The Class IV price was $16.19 in January and fell to $14.01 in April. The May Class IV price was $14.49 and June could be near $16.00. For the first five months of the year the Class III price averaged $2.52 higher than last year and the Class IV price averaged $1.86 higher. Milk prices are expected to continue to increase and peak out in October or November.

Cheese prices have remained surprisingly strong considering the level of milk production, cheese production and higher stocks levels. For April cheddar cheese production was 4.8% higher than the year before with total cheese production 3.7% higher. April 30th stocks of cheese was 10.1% higher than the year before. However, on the CME cheese prices showed some weakness in recent trades. The normal spread between blocks and barrels is around 4 cents but has averaged 22 cents in June. Barrels are long in comparison to blocks depressing barrel prices. This wide spread should correct itself as we move into summer.

Improved exports have supported higher cheese, butter, dry whey and nonfat dry milk prices. In April, U.S. dairy export volume was higher than year-ago-levels for the 11th straight month. Compared to a year ago exports to the top 10 markets showed exports up 91% to China, 84% to Oceania, 69% to Japan, 59% to South Korea, 43% to South America, 23% to Southeast Asia, 9% to Mexico and 2% to Canada, but 3% lower to the Caribbean and 16% lower to the Middle East/North Africa. Exports were 9% higher for nonfat dry milk/skim milk powder, 27% for cheese, 30% for butterfat, 11% for whey products and 9% for lactose. Dairy product prices on the Global Dairy Trade keep on strengthening and making U.S. products more price competitive. Exports are expected to continue to show improvement. World demand is expected to be stronger and increases in world milk production to be modest. Milk production had been running lower in major exporters—EU, New Zealand, Australia and Argentina. Milk production may start to run above year ago levels by summer and fall in both EU and New Zealand, but stronger world demand could absorb the increase.

The level of milk production will be a major factor on how much milk prices strengthen. If the growth in milk production is 2% or less, along with favorable domestic sales and continued improved exports the Class III price could be in the mid $16’s by July, assuming some recovery in cheese prices, and the $17’s for the remainder of the year peaking in October in the high $17’s. The Class IV price could be in the $17’s beginning in August and for the remaining months. However, dairy futures are currently less optimistic for the Class III price. Class III futures do not reach $17’s until August and remain in the low $17’s for the remainder of the year.
COMING EVENTS:

June – October 2017-Compost with Confidence- Local composting experts provide information and give hands-on demonstrations to help you set up and manage a compost system in any setting! Each class of this FREE series covers composting basics, and a different focal topic is addressed each month (see below) to help you address any compost issue you may encounter. Stop by for one or all classes, and bring your composting questions. Monthly Topics: June 24 - "Getting Started" July 29 - "Troubleshooting Your Bin" October 21 - "Winter Composting" For more information visit http://ccetompkins.org/events/2015/06/27/compost-w-confidence . Contact: Adam Michaelides, Compost Educator at acm1@cornell.edu or call Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County at (607) 272-2292 ext. 124.

July 7 – Getting Started With Chicken Class offered by CCE Chemung in July-If you would like to learn more about getting started with chickens, please join us on July 7, 2017 from 6-8pm at the Chemung County Fairground in the 4-H Building. Cost to attend is $5 per person. Pre-registration with payment is required by 7/5/2017. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Shona Ort at 607-734-4453 ext. 227 or sbo6@cornell.edu. To register please visit https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/GettingStartedWithChickens_207

July 7-9 - NY Bee Wellness Workshop- Honeybee Disease & Management July 7-9, 2017 at 126 Charleton Hall, Morrisville State College, Morrisville NY (Madison County) Featured instructor: Medhat Nasr, PhD. To register and for additional info. please visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ny-bee-wellness-workshop-honeybee-disease-management-tickets-33005508364 or call Pat at: 585-820-6619

July 8 – 9am-3pm-Growing Organic Garlic for Profit, 6321 Newport Road, Camillus, NY and GillieBrook Farm. Cost is $25/person which includes lunch and all materials. Priority for spots will be given to veterans in the Southern Tier, but others are welcome to attend as space permits. For further information and to register: https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/vetsgrowinggarlic_203

July 8 - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm-Scything: Make a Scythe & Learn to Mow - Instructor: Jeromy Biazzo, Wolftree Farm, skilled scythe maker and mower, and co-owner of Wolftree Farm Students will make a simple one handed snath (handle) to fit a blade they bring or purchase from Groundswell. Snath design and assembly will be made simpler so that more time can be applied to mowing. Ring clasps will be purchased and handles will be attached with a hanger bolt.Course Fee: $50, Materials Fee: $90, Total: $140 Don’t hesitate to contact us at info@groundswellcenter.org or 607.319.5095 with questions about access to materials, transportation, etc.

July 10 - Cross Border Grain Farm Tour and BBQ Join us on Monday, July 10th for tours of two leading grain farms on either side of the US/Canada border (and bring your passport!). Free but pre-registration is required ( 

First Stop – Eastern Grains Inc., New Brunswick  
250 3rd Tier Road (3e Rang), DSL de Drummond  
3:30–5:00pm Eastern Standard Time / 4:30–6:00pm Atlantic Standard Time

Second Stop – Marquis Farm, Maine  
287 Champlain St., Van Buren  
5:30–7:00pm Eastern Standard Time / 6:30–8:00pm Atlantic Standard Time

This event is free, but pre-registration is required. Pre-registration deadline - July 5th- To register by phone and for questions about the event, contact Ellen Mallory – ellen.mallory@maine.edu; 207-581-2942.
COMING EVENTS:

**July 19 - 6pm-8pm Backyard Grape Growing**- Silverspoon Café at 323 Owego St. Montour Falls
Please Join Gillian Trimber, a viticulture educator with Cornell Cooperative Extension's Finger Lakes Grape Program and learn about choosing a site, selecting varieties to plant, dodging diseases, and the principles of balanced pruning and crop load. Fee is $20 to attend. Please visit http://cceschuyler.org/ for required registration and additional information.

**July 19 - 6:30 – 7:30 PM-Workshop: Weed Identification and Management**- Steele Memorial Library (IT room), 101 E Church Street, Elmira, NY. Join Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chemung County to learn identification strategies and management tactics to help control weeds in your landscapes. Workshop fee: Free, but a $3 suggested donation helps support our Horticulture program. Registration is required. Please contact Chemung CCE at 607-734-4453, or jy578@cornell.edu.

**August 23 - 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM-Cider 101**, Join Autumn Stoscheck, award winning cider maker from Eve’s Cidery, about learning how to make your own cider and better understand the process. Cost is $10 and preregistration is required. For more details and to register, please visit https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/CCESchuylerCider101_244