Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County

Farm Flash

October 2025

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Meat Marketing with MeatSuite.com

MeatSuite.com is a free resource provided by Cornell University where NY meat farmers can create a farm profile and list their bulk (wholes, halves, and quarters) and bundled (ex. grilling bundles) meat products. All animal proteins are able to be advertised.

How do I sign up? Visit www.meatsuite.com to create your **FREE** farm profiles. You must list at least one product from your farm to have your profile go live. You'll also have access to Cornell's free Meat Price Calculator, a helpful tool for pricing your meat to make a profit.

If you have questions on creating a profile or using the Meat Price Calculator please reach out to Marylynn Collins at mrm7@cornell.edu or call (315) 736-3394 ext. 132

Upcoming Events

Crop Congress - Save the Date!
Co-Hosted by Clinton Tractor

January 15 from 9:30 am - 3:00 pm at the Clinton VFW

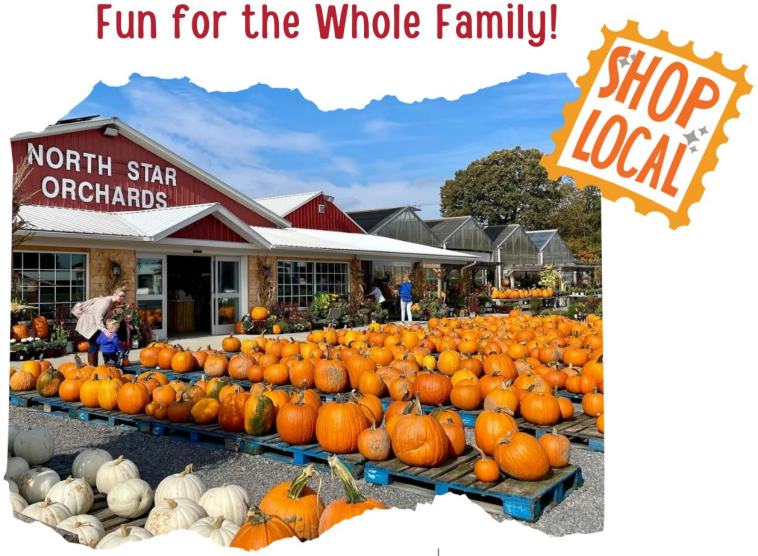
Pesticide and CCA credits will be available - More Details to Follow

Register with Danielle at Clinton Tractor by calling (315) 853-6151 or (315) 404-8423 or email Danielle@clintontractor.net

TASTE OF CNY

November 1st | 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
North Star Orchards - Westmoreland

Children's Activities - Shopping -
Live Music - Food Sampling -
Fun for the Whole Family!



Cornell Cooperative Extension | **Oneida County**

New Augusta Produce Market Kicks Off

Natika Walters

Oneida County has a new opportunity for fruit and vegetable growers and buyers alike. The Augusta Produce Auction kicked off their first season on August 19t^{h} and will run every Tuesday and Friday through October 21st with bidding starting at 10:00 am.

The kickoff was a spectacular showing for both growers and buyers with a barn packed full of beautiful produce and eager buyers. The Auction provides another economic option for growers in Oneida County to move produce that cannot be absorbed by the direct-to-consumer market, while also providing a wholesale option. It also allows local large scale buyers a centralized location to purchase a variety of produce. The market has had a wide variety of products move through including mums, apples, corn, squash, flower bouquets, elderberries and more.

Stop by the market and see all they have to offer Tuesdays and Friday through the last auction of the season on October 21$^{st.}$ The Produce Auction starts at 10:00 am and is located at 2326 North Rd, Oriskany Falls, NY 13425. Call (315) 347-8044 for the market report. The auction takes payments by cash or check only.

Grants Corner

October is here and the summer season has closed out. With the harvest season slowing your focus should head to end of year reporting and reviewing grants in time for grant season to open up. For more information about specific grants reach out to Natika Walters at nmw62@cornell.edu or call (315) 736-3394 x 177 or Marylynn Collins at mrm7@cornell.edu or call 315-736-3394 x 132. As full details of the grants are shared we will update Farm Flash.

Beginning Farmer Grant

The Beginning Farmer Grant run by NY Farm Viability Institute is anticipated to be released in mid-October with an anticipated application deadline at the end of January.

Last year grants were awarded for purposed including, but not limited to: the start-up, improvements, or expansion of a farm operation, worker or apprenticeship training, marketing activities, purchase of agricultural land including buildings, purchase of equipment, machinery, or livestock, the construction or improvement of physical structures, or other business needs justified by the applicant's proposal.

Grown and Certified Grant

To be eligible to apply for this grant you have to be certified Grown and Certified. If you would like to learn more about becoming a NY Grown and Certified business contact Carl Mierek at cm2273@cornell.edu or call 315-736-3394 x 120. This grant should open in late November and close at the end of February. Previously funding has been split amongst regions creating smaller competition pools. The grant is geared toward goals within ITRD - Information, Technology, Research and Development.

Dairy Farm Improvement and Modernization Grant

This grant is run by the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center. The grant opens on October14, 2025 and close on December 4, 2025. The awards range from $15,000 to $100,000 with a 25% in-kind or cash match contribution. This program will fund projects that support dairy farmers in improving their operations for long-term success. This grant focuses on projects that update outdated systems or try new and innovative solutions, with the goal of enhancing farm viability, reducing climate impacts, improving milk quality or value, improving worker conditions, and strengthening the farm's ability to respond to challenges. Eligible applicants include dairy farmers, producer cooperatives or service providers applying on behalf of groups of farmers , and milk buyers (if the project focuses on on-farm milk production or transfer). Grants are available to applicants in all Northeast states: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Learn more online at https://nedairyinnovation.com/grants/farm-improvement-modernization/

Management Considerations for Immature and Frosted Corn Silage
L.E. Chase - Cornell CALS Animal Science Publication Series

The 2025 growing season in New York has again not been "normal." Wet conditions delayed planting in many areas of the state. Later in the growing season, some areas were dry. On many farms, there are large differences in corn maturity between fields. There is a possibility that some corn will not reach "normal" maturity when at harvest. Growing degree days in August and September will be key in determining maturity at harvest. An early frost will further complicate the situation.

What can we do to manage corn harvest in this situation? The key will be to apply the basic principles of harvest, storage and feeding of the 2025 corn crop. Dairy producers have been through this situation a few times in the last 15 years and have some experience in managing this situation. The key points to concentrate on for the 2025 corn crop are:

Nutrient Composition: Immature corn will be wet <30% DM), higher in crude protein, sugar, NDF and lower in starch than mature corn. NDF digestibility is difficult to predict due to environmental conditions at different phases of plant growth. Energy value of immature corn will be 80-95% of normal maturity corn silage.

Harvesting

- Do everything possible to harvest corn silage at the **right dry matter content**. The target range for harvest is 32-38% dry matter (DM). The goal is for the average DM to be 34-36% in bunker silos.
- Use whole plant dry matter to determine when to harvest. With many hybrids, milk line is not a good indicator of harvest time.
- If plant dry matter is determined with a Koster tester, the value obtained is about 2 units higher than the actual plant dry matter. A DM of 33% using a Koster tester is about 31% DM in the plant. This needs to be considered when determining harvest time.
- Whole plant dry down rates are about 0.5% per day in early September, dry down rates will slow later in season. If the corn plant is 28% DM today, it will take about 8 days to reach 32% DM. Dry down rates are variable due to weather conditions. Check whole plant DM before starting to harvest.

- If the immature corn is harvested at <30% DM, kernel processing may not be needed.
- Monitor particle size and kernel breakage during harvest. This is the only wat to determine if the settings are right.
- Kernal breakage should be >90%.
- Particle size distribution using the Penn State particle separator:
    - 3 screens + pan
    - Top sieve = 3-8% of total weight
    - 2nd sieve = 45-65%
    - 3rd sieve = 20-30%
    - Pan = <10%
- You may need to recheck the settings during harvest since factors such as hybrid, stand density, maturity and DM influence particle size and kernel breakage.
- Consider the use of research proven bacterial silage inoculant to assist improving fermentation efficiency and dry matter recovery. Follow the directions for handling and use.
- Take some samples for forage analysis to characterize nutrient composition and planning the feeding program. Analyses should include DM, CP, NDF, starch and NDF digestibility.

Storage

- Try to store immature and normal corn silage in separate facilities. This provides a better flexibility at feeding time and allocation to specific animal groups.
- Make sure your have enough packing tractor weight. The thumb rule is 800 lbs of pacing tractor weight for each ton of silage delivered per hour. If the filling rate is 100 tons/hour, you would need 80,000 lbs of packing tractor.
- Pack in thin layers (5-7 inches).
- Considered covering the silo walls with plastic on the inside to minimize air infiltration through cracks and joints.
- Seal the silo with plastic and tires or the new lower oxygen permeability cover.

Frosted Corn

In some years, there is a killing frost before corn has reached maturity for harvest. Key points to consider in this situation are:

- The leaves will quickly turn brown and the plant will appear "dry." This gives a false reading on whole plant DM since the leaves are only 10-15% of the total plant weight on a DM basis. Most of the plant moisture is in the ear and stalk.
- Whole plant DM needs to be determines to assess when to harvest. Corn for silage should be >32% DM before starting harvest.
- Frost may kill some of the normal bacteria on the plant. A research proven inoculant may assist in getting a good fermentation started.
- Harvest as quickly as possible. This lowers the risk of the plant getting too dry and potential mold growth on the ear. Follow the guidelines listed above for packing and sealing the silo.

Mycotoxins

The risk of mycotoxins increases when corn plants are subjected to stress. The 2025 growing season may have a higher potential for mycotoxins. There is some monitoring going on by companies and a better assessment should be available by late September or early October.

Summary

- Harvest at >32% DM
- Monitor forage particle size and kernel breakage
- Take samples for forage analysis during harvest
- Store immature or frosted silage in separate storage facilities
- Pack and seal the silo
- Consider the use of a research proven inoculant
- Watch for more information on mycotoxin risk

One Resistant Plant Quickly Becomes Many
Enrico Villamaino for Country Folks

Once hailed as a green guardian of soil health, annual ryegrass has now gone rouge in New York State. A cover crop champion turned chemical-defying challenger, this fast growing plant has morphed into a resistant renegade, surviving glyphosate sprays and turning heads in the worst way.

Research titled "Glyphosate-Resistant Annual Ryegrass in New York State: The Case of a Cover Crop Becoming a Problematic Weed" from Cornell University has spotlighted this escalating issue. The research team, composed of Vipan Kumar and Antonio DiTommaso of Cornell's School of Integrative Plant Science, along with Mike Stanyard from Cornell Cooperative Extension, paints a picture that's both familiar and alarming for farmers in the Empire State.

Annual ryegrass, *Lolium perenne L. spp. multiflorum*, known to many as Italian rye, has been a staple winter cover crop, prized for its quick establishment and vigorous growth. Brought to the U.S. from Europe during colonial times, it now blankest millions of acres across the country, fortifying soil structure and soil erosion.

But this green knight has a dark side. Left unmanaged, it grows up to four feet tall, outcompeting crops and seeding aggressively. The research notes its history of notoriety in other regions: "Annual ryegrass has been established as one of the most problematic weeds in small grain cereals, row and vegetable crops as well as along roadsides in the United States."

It's been ranked the most troublesome and difficult to control weed in winter cereal grains by the Weed Science Society of America. Now, it's officially joined the ranks of herbicide-resistant weeds in New York.

For decades, glyphosate has been the go-to for terminating cover crops before planting. But starting in 2023, three farmers in Livingston, Ontario and Genesee counties discovered the hard way that glyphosate alone wasn't doing the job anymore.

Despite applying multiple rounds of the herbicide at standard field-use rates, the ryegrass rebounded with gusto. Not only did it survive, it mature, headed out, pollinated and produced viable seed, turning treated fields into seedbanks for tougher generation.

This wasn't just a fluke or weather issue. Greenhouse experiments conducted at Cornell's Guterman Bioclimatic Laboratory confirmed it. New York now has a population of glyphosate-resistant annual ryegrass.

To verify resistance, researchers compared the New York strain with known glyphosate-susceptible population from Arkansas. They applied nine escalating doses of glyphosate (Durango® Brand) to both strains under greenhouse conditions. The results were dramatic,.

The Arkansas plants succumbed to field-use levels. The New York ryegrass survived not only the standard dose but even the highest dose tested, which was a whopping 16 times the standard strength.

The research states bluntly, "Durango applied at the field-use rate… did not provide any control of the annual ryegrass population from Livingston County."

Worse, even the strongest dose, 432 fl. oz./acre, failed to wipe it out. In technical terms, the resistant population showed a 22-fold resistance compared to the Arkansas strain.

This isn't just a resistance. It's resilience on steroids.

In the face of glyphosate failure, the research team pivoted to post-emergence herbicides in a 2025 on-farm trial. They tested a chemical cocktail of nine different combinations, including Select Max® (clethodim), Assure® II (quizalofop), Liberty® 280 SL (glufosinate), Gramoxone® SL 3.0 (paraquat) and mixes with metribuzin, plus combinations with glyphosate.

The experiments results speak volumes.

Gramoxone, alone, or with metribuzin and Liberty, or in combination with Select Max or Assure ll, delivered 92%-100% control at 21 days after treatment. Meanwhile, clethodim and quizalofop alone flopped, with control rates stuck between 10% and 25%.

In short, some chemical options may remain effective, but only if chosen wisely and timed correctly.

The emergence of glyphosate-resistant ryegrass in New York raises alarm bells beyond state's borders. Once a problem primarily plaguing the South and West, herbicide resistance is now a Northeastern reality. The researchers noted finings "confirm the first case of glyphosate resistance in annual ryegrass in New York State."

But this isn't just about chemical failure. It's about ecological and economic fallout.

Viable seeds from resistant plants can build up rapidly in the soil. Seedbanks become ticking time bombs, sprouting new resistance in subsequent seasons. Control costs skyrocket, requiring new chemistries, labor and equipment changes.

The Cornell team is rolling out a multi-pronged research initiative focused on mapping the spread of resistant populations across New York and the Northeast, investigating multi-herbicide resistance and how it evolves, exploring integrated weed management strategies and evaluating cost-effective methods to reduce ryegrass seedbank in fields.

This means collaborating with growers, universities and Extension agents to craft a regional action plan because one resistant plant quickly becomes many.

What began as a helpful cover crop has become a saboteur of Empire State Agriculture. Glyphosate-resistant annual ryegrass is already forcing farmers and scientists alike to rethink their strategies, revamp their sprays and revamp their sprays and reevaluate their fields.

As Kumar, DiTommaso and Stanyard warn in their research, alternative post-herbicide burndown chemistries can be used to terminate glyphosate-resistant annual ryegrass, but without long-term integrated approaches, the problem will only grow - literally.

The grass may look greener, but it's smarter, stronger, and scarier then ever. Farmers, take note: Your next weed war might just be waged on your former friend.

OpEd: Setting the Record Straight: Methane, Agriculture, and Misrepresentation

Dr. Frank Miloehner, Professor at University of California-Davis, clarifies his position on methane, GWP and funding for academic research.

If I had a dollar for every time a report put words in my mouth, whether it's about the importance of methane, the applicability of GWP* (Global Warming Potential), or how research is funded in academia … well, I wouldn't have to worry about funding at all.

For the sake of a spat of misinformed articles, that take liberties with my perspectives, I want to clear up some things about me and how I view the intersection of animal agriculture and sustainability.

Many people try and distort what I say by taking bits and pieces of comments and mashing them together to fit their narrative. It seems to be forgotten that I am a researcher at a public institution.

I am a teacher. I am a mentor. I am a father and husband. While many will see me as a looming and outsized figure standing in the way of their ideological agenda, I am a college professor and researcher as a land grant university that wants to make this world better. I never expected to become the subject of personal attacks in public discourse. Healthy debate about science and policy is vital - but when that shifts from critique of ideas to attacks on individuals, we all lose.

So, for the sake of clarity, I want to go on record and say a few things that are getting twisted. First and foremost:

We need to reduce methane from animal agriculture to limit warming that is causing climate change. At the same time, we must produce more food than ever before to feed a growing global population, including nutrient-rich animal-sourced foods that play a vital role in human health and development.

These two realities aren't in conflict - they're a challenge we must tackle together. Mitigating methane is a way to improve efficiency on farm, as we known that methane is a result of wasted energy in animals and some solutions have shown increased intake and output. What's more, reducing methane from animal agriculture is one of the most actionable and immediate ways we can contribute to climate goals - without compromising good security, which is why I have dedicated my career to studying ways in which to reduce greenhouse gases in agriculture.

In fact, I've spent more than two decades working to reduce pollutants from livestock systems through science-based solutions that improve animal welfare, worker safety, productivity, and environmental performance. I am on the UN FAO Leap Steering Committee and an appointed member of the USDA Air Quality Task Force. I have 150 publications on livestock and sustainability. I collaborate directly with producers around the world because I support agriculture and believe in the people who make our food system function.

That's why I find it particularly troubling when farmers and ranchers are relentlessly blamed in the climate conversation. Producers must be part of the solution - because without them, there is no path forward.

Producers must be part of the solution - because without them, there is no path forward. Shutting them out or disparaging their role not only stalls progress, but it's also extremely counterproductive. These are problem-solvers who, when brought in as partners, can and do deliver real results.

Alarmist headlines and accusatory narratives don't move us closer to solutions; they shut down the possibility for constructive dialogue. Animal sourced foods will continue to be part of diets across the globe, regardless of individual preferences. And despite what many think, I do not control that, one way or another.

The real work lies in making production better - not vilifying it. I don't write the rules on what people eat. I work to ensure that if they choose to eat animal products, it's done with the lowest possible environmental impact. So, the question isn't whether we include farmers in the climate fight - it's how soon we recognize that we can't do it without them.

Bashing farmers and ranchers for doing exactly what society needs them to do - produce food full of essential nutrients and minerals - is detrimental. What if you were to be accosted every single day for driving your car? For turning on your lights? For flying? Our carbon consumptive habits result in significant climate impacts, yet you may ask, "What else am I to do?"

Blaming the pillar of society that feeds us is not the answer. That I know for sure. Blaming me, doesn't seem very productive either.

I'm no stranger to negative articles targeting me or my research. I've seen writers contort facts and science to meet their perspectives and agendas. That's nothing new. Don't get me wrong, I think debate is healthy. Scrutiny is part of the scientific process. But turning a researcher into a target - rather than engaging with the research itself - sets a dangerous precedent.

There has been much talk about GWP* in the media lately as various countries consider its validity. To be clear, the IPCC has lent the basis of the metric credibility, despite what writers have shared. It was created and developed by researchers not involved in animal agriculture. But as I'm clearing some things up, I want to share this about GWP*: If methane emission rise it will show that related warming dramatically rises.

If emissions decrease, it will show related warming is less. This makes sense, as one scenario results in added methane to the atmosphere, while another sees a reduction of methane in the atmosphere. It's a completely viable matrix to judge the livestock sector by. It does not mean we need to abandon GWP100 (the heat trapping ability of a specific gas relative to carbon dioxide over 100 years) or other metrics, but having more information is extremely valuable as regions make decisions on food production. Using GWP* doesn't take away from the need to reduce methane, and in mind, could really spur a reduction as we show efforts to implement climate solutions are not only necessary, but have tremendous impact. It's a part of a good story.

I want to say that in time when long-standing institutions are transitioning the climate fight to the public, it's even more critical that our public institutions and land grant institutions step up and find feasible solutions that not only allow countries to produce more food, but in a more sustainable way.

Again, I want to reiterate farmers are uniquely positioned to be part of the climate solution. In part, because they manage critical natural resources such as land and water. Through practices like rotational grazing and improved manure management they can reduce emissions and even sequester carbon in soils. But also, because farmers are essential innovators—they are constantly adapting to changing conditions—and their firsthand knowledge makes them valuable partners in developing practical, scalable solutions. With the right tools and support, agriculture can shift from being a source of emissions to a powerful climate ally. And this is why I will never apologize for working alongside them. They are partners, not villains in this climate fight.

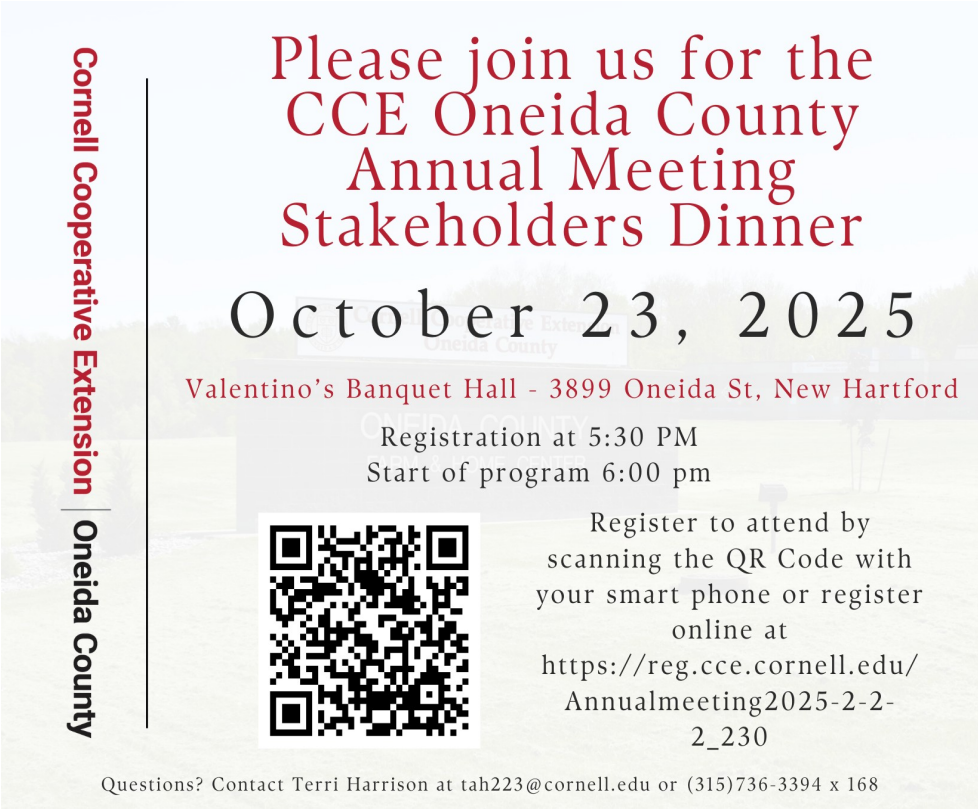
I remain committed to addressing climate change, and I believe farmers and ranchers and those in the agricultural industry are essential partners in that mission. I welcome constructive criticism and debate—but I also believe we must hold ourselves to a standard of respect that encourages solutions, not silences them.

Farmers are part of the climate solution. And so are researchers, like me. And we're not going to solve climate change by vilifying the people that are trying to solve it. That's the conversation I'd like to have. The rest is just noise. And damn anyone who thinks otherwise.

Frank Mitloehner, PhD

Professor & Air Quality Extension Specialist, Director of the CLEAR Center at University of California-Davis

Dr. Frank Mitloehner is a professor and air quality specialist in cooperative extension in the Department of Animal Science at UC Davis. As such, he shares his knowledge and research, both domestically and abroad, with students, scientists, farmers and ranchers, policy makers, and the public at large. Frank is also director of the CLEAR Center, which has two cores – research and communications. The CLEAR Center brings clarity to the intersection of animal agriculture and the environment, helping our global community understand the environmental and human health impacts of livestock, so we can make informed decisions about the foods we eat and while reducing environmental impacts.



Corn Silage: rain following dry conditions
Joe Lawrence - Cornell CALS Forage Management

The 2025 growing season has experienced many extremes. Recently several areas have received much needed rain and while it has not been enough to alleviate the dry conditions for most, it has been enough to "perk up" some corn fields.

The following reminders and guidelines apply to corn that has a developed ear and in the maturation phase as this rain is received. For the numerous acres of very late planted corn that are still developing ears, the recent articles on Late season forage considerations (2025) and immature corn silage remain applicable.

These scenarios, with rain following the dry conditions, often triggers a final effort by the corn plant to finish its lifecycle, putting energy into kernel development. It is important to watch for this in your corn fields and let the process play out. The challenge is this can further delay proper corn silage harvest timing but with this challenge comes opportunity. The opportunity being improvements in overall forage value of the silage when patience is exercised and the corn plants are able to make up for some of the limitations from the season long weather challenges.

While we should not expect any miracles with these stressed corn fields, allowing the plants to utilize the recent moisture to put resources into finishing kernel development can improve overall yield and starch content compared to being too hasty with harvest timing.

Considerations

- When corn plants have access to this late season moisture following dry conditions, achieving proper plant maturity for silage harvest takes longer than growing degree days (GDD) projections indicate. GDD projections can still be useful for grouping fields by planting dates and hybrid relative maturities but realize actual harvest timing will be delayed past the projected GDD's needed.

- Plant health needs to be considered when balancing the tradeoffs of harvesting a stressed crop (table 1). With good plant health, following harvest targets of 35 percent whole plant dry matter and two-thirds kernel milkline will help optimize yield and forage nutritional value. However, when plant health is poor, harvesting when whole plant dry matter is in the low 30's and/or kernel milkline is less than two-thirds may be warranted to avoid potential negative impacts to fiber digestibility and increased risk of mold and toxins issues.

Drought and forage nitrate considerations

Any time drought conditions occur, questions arise regarding the potential for problematic nitrate levels in forages. While this risk is real, the practical scenarios where it is of concern are limited to feeding green chop forage harvested within a short window after a "drought ending" rain. The risk is with properly fermented forages harvested several days after the rain event are very low.

- Delaying harvest for several days after the rain event will allow time for the plant to process the excess nitrate taken up from the soil following the rain.
- Proper fermentation will reduce nitrate concentrations in the forage even if harvest occurred before the plants had time to process the excess nitrate.
- An important note here is that while the risk to livestock in minimized, ensiling high nitrate forages can increase the risk of silo gases developing during the fermentation process and excess precautions should be taken when working around silos containing these forages.

TABLE 1: Considerations for harvest above or below target corn maturity

Risk factors for harvest:	
BELOW 35% WPDM	**ABOVE** 35% WPDM
➢ ↓ overall DM yield ➢ ↓ Starch Content ➢ Excessive silage effluent in storage ➢ ↑ Acetic Acid o can impact energy & DM recovery	➢ ↓ potential Starch Digestibility ➢ ↑ challenges achieving: ➢ high silage densities ➢ desired Kernel Processing ➢ Fermentation Efficiency ➢ Feed Hygiene Challenges ➢ Molds, Yeast, Mycotoxins ➢ Weather Challenges during harvest

Factorings favoring harvest	
BELOW 35% WPDM	**ABOVE** 35% WPDM
➢ Accelerated kernel maturity ➢ Poor plant health	➢ Delayed kernel maturity ➢ Good plant health

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