Western New York CROP MANAGEMENT

WNYCMA NEWS

September 30, 2015

Main Office: 5242 Curtis Road, Warsaw NY 14569 **Randolph Office: 91 Jamestown Street, Randolph NY 14772**

Marestail: *A Growing Problem in New York Soybeans*

by Josh Harvey

Marestail (horseweed) has been found in various crops all across New York State in recent years, but has been most problematic in Round-Up ready soybeans. Marestail, in most cases, is resistant to glyphosate herbicide and ALS inhibiting herbicides (group 2). With the current soybean chemical options, there are not many chemicals to control this weed with post emergent programs. Therefore, it is very important to know if this on your farm and take proper actions to control it in the fall and spring with burndown applications.

Marestail is an annual that emerges at two times in the year, late summer to early fall and early to late spring. Although it is not a new weed to New York State, glyphosate -resistant biotypes are. Each plant can produce up to 200,000 seeds that can be dispersed by the wind. Research has shown that marestail seeds can travel over a hundred miles in a single flight with significant wind speed. It is likely that resistant populations develop from the spread of seed and not the overuse of glyphosate on an individual farm.

Once you have glyphosate resistant marestail present on your farm, there are some aggressive steps that can be taken to help control the outbreaks of this noxious weed. Resistant populations of this weed are most controllable when the plants are in the rosette stage and when burndown materials are applied prior to stem elongation.

A fall application of a 2,4D or Dicamba material to help control any fall germinated marestail that is still in the rosette stage will prevent it from surviving the winter months. Along with the fall application, a spring burndown program with a residual prior to planting soybeans is advised. Using a residual chemical in the fall can be costly and less effective than a spring application. From a profitability standpoint, it is important to keep your fall application costs between $6-15. One spray regimen would be to apply 2,4-D Amine @ 1.5 pts/acre and Glyphosate @ 1 qt/acre in the fall to control fall emerged marestail and other broad-spectrum weeds, and a spring application of 2,4-D Ester @ .5 pt/acre, glyphosate @ 1 qt/acre and Sharpen (Residual) @ 1 oz/acre prior to planting. Before applying the spring application of burndown, be sure to know the rotation restrictions for soybeans for the chemicals being used. This example has a 7-30 day rotation restriction for soybeans.

Another option, and by far the most effective, is the use of gluphosinate-resistant or "LibertyLink" soybeans. With this program, the non-selective herbicide, Liberty, can control

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marestail at the standard labeled rates within the season. Check with your local seed sales representative to see if they have LibertyLink varieties available for your area.

As you harvest your soybean fields this fall, be sure to look for weeds that may have slipped through your herbicide program. What starts out as a small problem can quickly become a big one (remember 200,000 seeds per plant!) Contact your crop consultant for further information on marestail, especially if you spot it on your farm or in your area.

Fall Management of Grass Stands

by Dan Steward

Fall is a critical time of year for perennial forages. Grass has not historically received the consideration alfalfa has, but it should. The following points should be considered if you are planning on taking another cutting:

1. **A late cutting will affect next year's first cutting.** September and October are critical for forming next year's tillers. A cutting taken later than mid-September will help you feed your cows this winter, but will result in lower yields next year.

2. **If you do take a late cutting, leave at least 3-4" of stubble when mowing.** Carbohydrates for regrowth are stored in the bottom 3-4" of growth, not the root system.

3. **Maintain soil fertility by applying more than just nitrogen**. We have gotten into the habit of just applying nitrogen on grass. High nitrogen rates and low potassium will result in poorer winter survival and higher susceptibility to diseases. Unfortunately, grass will remove just as much potassium as alfalfa. It will also take up more than it needs for optimum growth. If you are seeing low or very low soil test K and/or forage samples with K concentration below 1.7%, you are probably hurting your stands. Fall, not spring, is the best time to apply potassium. Obviously, manure is a great source of N, P, and K.

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EQIP Funding Goes Beyond the Farmstead

by Rhonda Lindquist

Most farmers are aware that the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds manure storages and other farmstead practices, but what about practices in the field?

In recent years there has been a steep increase in the number of extreme rainstorms. These storms have revealed some serious erosion concerns in many of our fields. And, as we all know, soil erosion reduces soil productivity and causes negative impacts downstream. EQIP funding can assist with the installation of a number of conservation practices that help restore and preserve the integrity of our fields. Examples of some of the common cropland practices implemented through EQIP include strip cropping, water & sediment control basins, grassed waterways, and cover crops. Some farms may also be eligible to apply for agrochemical handling facility funding.

The New York Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has set October 16th as the application cutoff for the EQIP for fiscal year 2016.

All applications are competitive and are ranked based on national, state and locally identified resource priorities and the overall benefit to the environment.

Now may be a good time to take an inventory of fields with erosion. So, if you are interested in applying for or learning more about what cropland, farmstead, or other practices are offered through EQIP, contact your local NRCS office before October 16, 2015 to meet the deadline.

Do you want to know more about our tech offerings?

Map App

Web Maps

Online Record Keeping

We have staff available to come to you for installation and training. Talk to your consultant or call Jenn at (585) 786-5831.

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As Halloween Approaches: the Value of Bats to Crop Production

By John Tooter, Penn State Extension Specialist

The significant contribution that bats have in successful crop production is revealed in an extensive mid-west study. Diversity, we are reminded, is a great thing.

I happen to be a strong believer in the value of diversity for crop production, and talk about this issue regularly at farmer events. Research has clearly demonstrated that cropping areas that have higher levels of plant species diversity and more complex crop rotations, including cover crops, tend to have fewer insect pest problems. I therefore try to encourage farmers to increase crop or rotational diversity wherever possible to gain from the accompanying lower pest pressure. And keep in mind that maintaining higher levels of plant species diversity can be as simple as not removing hedgerows, woodlots, or other non-crop areas.

Complementing this perspective is some valuable recent research on bats from researchers at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL. An unprecedented two-year corn experiment in corn fields revealed that bats save about $1 billion in crop damage per year. The field work associated with this research involved excluding bats from six research plots (65 × 65 ft) while allowing them access to six others. To exclude bats, researchers constructed above fields a system of steel cables that suspended netting (23 ft tall), which was moved to the side during the day, but was in place during evening. These cages were in place about three months of each of the 2013 and 2014 field seasons. This experiment revealed that when bats did not have access to the airspace above corn fields, corn earworm populations were about 60% higher and earworms damaged about 50% more kernels than plots that bats could not access. Further, as a result of corn earworm feeding, fungal infestations of corn ears were much higher where bats were excluded, so an absence of bats can indirectly exacerbate fungal infestations!

This research clearly indicates that having bats around benefits crop production. Thus, we need healthy bat populations to take advantage of the voracious appetite for moths, like corn earworm, European corn borer, armyworm, and others. Bats will roost during the summer in barns and trees, so keeping old drafty barns standing and leaving trees near fields should provide some benefits. Or consider contributing to the abundance of summer roosts by putting out bat houses!

Lastly, this research also emphasizes reasons to be concerned about white nose syndrome, which is threatening local bat populations. I encourage you to educate yourselves about bats so we can do what we can to support their populations. They are our allies in pest control!

On Farm Twilight Meetings:

Erie and Chautauqua Counties

October 14th: Stefan Hay Company

10333 Jennings Road, North Collins, NY

October 15th: Schofield Farms

8305 Rt. 20, Westfield, NY (field next to **Grape Discovery Center**)

The Western NY Crop Management Association, Stefan Hay Company, and Schofield Farms will be hosting end of season field crop meetings. Topics to be covered include:

- **Cover Crops:** Multi-specie cover crop plots have been planted at both farms. There will be a discussion of challenges and opportunities. (Seed was provided by Preferred Seed.)
- **Nitrogen Management in Corn:** Discussion of how different methods of nitrogen application faired in 2015 including preplant nitrogen with and without stabilizers, different side-dressing methods and the use of the Adapt-N program to adjust nitrogen rates.
- **Weed Management in Corn:** Discussion of 2015 weed control and what problem weeds to watch for. Emphasis will be placed on glyphosate-resistant weeds.
- **Practical Use of Precision Ag Technology on Farm:** Between the two farms, they have adopted a number of precision agricultural practices including yield mapping, strip-tillage with row guidance and shut-offs, and variable rate lime and potash applications. Ben Flansburg of BCA Ag Technologies works with both farms and will discuss what the farms are doing.
- **Practical Use of Aerial Imagery for WNY Agriculture:** Discussion of the use of aerial imagery will include drones, chartered flights, and existing data. BCA Ag Technologies may have one of their practice drones available for demonstration.

Schedule

Registration:	3:45 pm
Discussion starts:	4:00 pm
Dinner Break (Pizza):	5:30 pm
End of Program:	6:30 pm

1.25 pesticide recertification credits are available for each meeting.

No Cost and No Reservations Needed- If you have any questions call: Dan Steward @ 716-499-2946 or Tom Frederes @ 716-485-6454.

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