

CROP NOTES for Aug 2, 2019 – A Few Forage Items

Iowa State University Extension Information for Northeast Iowa
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Past issues of Crop Notes are posted at:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/winneshiek/page/crop-notes-brian-lang>

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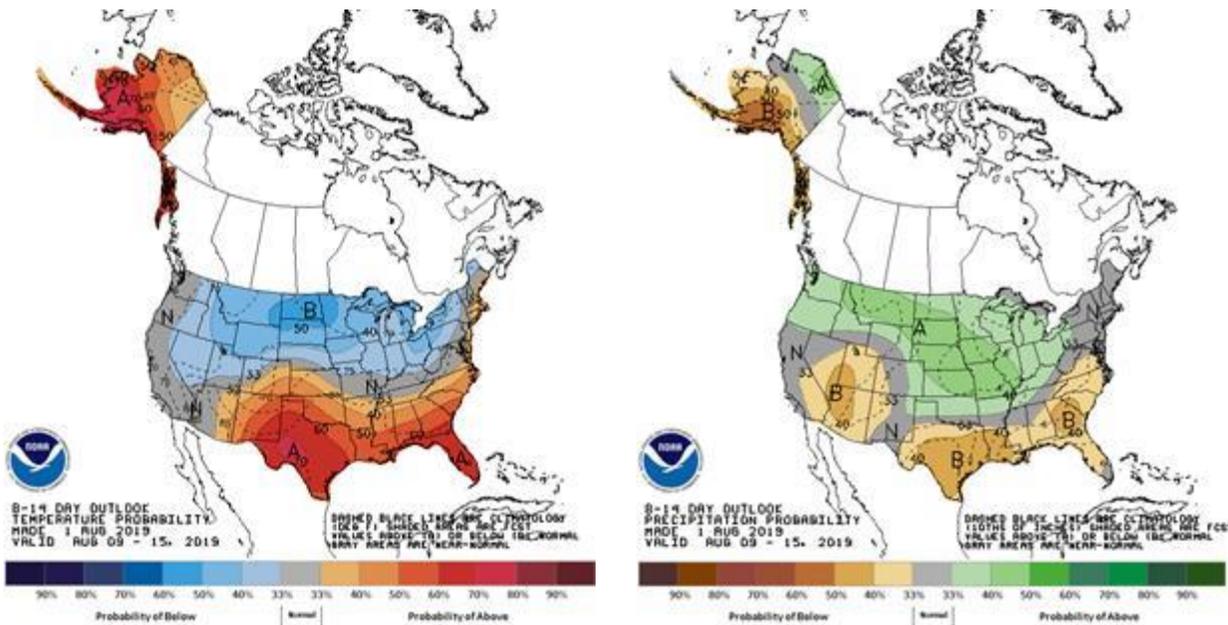
LATE-SUMMER SEEDING FORAGES

Alfalfa, Alfalfa-Grass, Legume-Grass Pasture

Late summer seeding of alfalfa and other perennial forages should be done in August. Ideally by August 10 in the northern third of Iowa and by August 20 in the central third of Iowa, and by Sept. 1 in the southern third of Iowa. The following article from 2010 provides basic information to successfully establish a forage stand <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2010/0719barnhart.htm> One to two week later plantings then stated above often work too, but they are much more dependent on very favorable fall weather. The rule of thumb for alfalfa is that once the planting is emerged, that you still have at least 6 weeks of growth before the first killing frost (~24°F, which averages Oct. 25 in northeast Iowa).

Regarding pastures, often the best way to renovate and fully establish a new pasture is to treat it initially like a hay stand. So the comments above would also apply to pasture establishment, and the new pasture would be ready for grazing first thing next spring. If planting a new pasture in spring, grow it to a hay crop for first harvest as hay, haylage, baleage to fully establish the root systems, and then graze.

For any of these late-summer forage seedings to work, we need good seeding technique and timely rainfall. Good technique includes achieving seed-to-soil contact using press wheels or a cultipacker. Regarding rainfall...unfortunately we are running short right now, and not much of anything predicted within the next week (25% chance of sprinkles Monday night). However, the National Weather Service forecast for Aug 9-15 suggests probabilities of cooler than normal temperatures and above normal chances of rain. So there is hope!



Prevent-Plant

Early August is always viewed as the “prime-time” to plant oats alone, or a small grain forage (oats, winter rye) Brassica mix for fall forage use. Plant only oats for hay or haylage. Plant a oats or a winter rye-wheat-triticale with a Brassica for fall grazing. Typical Brassicas considered include Rape, Turnip or Radish. There has been much research over the years on this, and an ISU Extension publication summarizing some of this research is at: <http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/CowsPlows/SupplementalForages.pdf> Also, the University of Wisconsin summarized research on “Fall Grown Oat Forages” <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/forage/files/2017/06/FallOatYield-FOF-1.pdf>

INSECTS

Potato Leafhopper (PLH) – Continue to be very active

Scout for PLH in alfalfa through August. Scouting and management tips are available at: <https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/cropnews/2019/07/potato-leafhopper-management-alfalfa>

Aphids

In general, aphids in alfalfa have been on the high side this season, but the economic threshold is considered to be at least 30/stem, or >100/sweep. So for the most part populations have not been too bad, but I have received the occasional text & photo with very high aphid pressure in alfalfa stands. The following article includes photos and more details about aphids in alfalfa: <https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/cropnews/2009/07/getting-know-aphids-alfalfa>

EVENTS

Aug 15, Organic Dairy Pasture Walk, Waukon

2:00 to 5:00 PM at the John Palmer Farm (Prairie Star Farm), Organic Dairy at 835 McCabe Drive, Waukon. They will tour facilities and discuss what it takes to produce organic milk? Learning some of the best practices with the 120 cow herd, 200 acres of pasture, 400 acres of crops. If planning to attend, please RSVP to Kelli Hanson at kellih@iowaorganic.org Directions from Waukon: Head south on Rossville Rd/IA-76 S/IA-9 W for

1.9 miles, turn right onto IA-9 W and head west for 0.8 miles. Turn left onto 9th St. SW/N Fork Hollow Rd and drive 1.5 miles, then turn left onto McCabe Drive. The farm is on the right.

Aug 20, Organic Pigs, Sheep & Chicken Pasture Walk, Calmar

5:30 to 7:30 PM at the Andy and Betsy Boone Farm (Driftless Hills Farm), 2264 200th St, Calmar, IA. They will discuss organic raising of pigs, sheep and chickens on pasture. Come learn about when and how they move their animals, their fencing and watering plans, and direct marketing their meats. There will be a potluck after the pasture walk so if staying for the potluck, please bring a dish to share.

Aug 21, Dairy Pasture Walk, Garnavillo

11:00 AM to 2:30 PM at the Andy Schaefer farm, 25037 Lake Rd., Garnavillo, IA. Participants will get an up-close look at pasture renovation, brush control and the overall economics of dairy grazing. Some pasture forage quality samples will be tested and results discussed that day. For more information, please read the news release at: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/dairyteam/dairy-pasture-walk>

Great River Graziers Pasture Walk Events in Southwest WI

See the full schedule for details at: <https://crawford.extension.wisc.edu/files/2019/04/FINAL-GRGKGI-PASTURE-WALK-SCHEDULE-2019.pdf>

Upcoming events:

Aug 13 near Ferryville, WI. Discuss year 3 of converting woods to silvo-pasture, designing a forage chain & adding chickens for fly control.

Aug 27 near Gays Mills, WI. Discuss the challenges and successes in using brush management techniques in pastures to improve forage quality and accessibility for cattle.

Sept 7 near Genoa, WI. Rotational Grazing with Goats: A primer for those interested in working with goats and/or mixed species.

Sept 10 near Soldiers Grove, WI. Discuss silvo-pasture management progress since the pasture walk in 2017, and also soil improvement/fertility issues.

Oct 22 near Prosper, MN. Discuss evaluation of grazing and pastures for fall and planning for spring. Considerations for Karst geology/water quality in the Driftless region.

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