



**DRY DAYS ON THE FARM:** Tivoli farmer Ken Migliorelli, shown here on his tractor, has had his crops hit hard by the recent lack of rainfall. Measurements taken in Annandale show that the area received only one quarter of the normal rainfall for June, and a third this month.

## *Local farmers hit hard by soaring mercury, little rain*

by D.X. Barton

As the noticeable lack of rain and even more noticeable heat wave combine to brown lawns and dry up water supplies, nobody's suffering more than local farmers. And Tuesday's .2 of an inch of rainfall did nothing to clear the forecast.

"It's bad, I tell you," Red Hook dairy farmer Irving Fraleigh said this week. "The cows stand in the crick all day. It's a sad situation."

Fraleigh, who grows corn, hay and alfalfa to feed his dairy cows, said he expects to lose his entire corn crop and much of his hay and alfalfa crop to the withering heat. "We're hurt, really hurt. We couldn't recover even if it does rain."

According to Dave Tetor, agricultural agent for the Dutchess County Cooperative Extension, Fraleigh's woes are common among area farmers. "Things are really beginning to get serious now," Tetor said.

Tetor said the county usually receives five to six inches of rain in June, but his rain gauge only saw an inch.

Statistics kept by Bard College professor and Hudsonia executive director, Erik Kiviat, prove that a lot less rain fell last month than normal. According to Kiviat's records, taken at the Bard College field station in Annandale, .81 inches fell in June and 1.34 inches so far in July. That is about one-quarter of the normal rain-

fall for June and July, which should average about eight inches, Kiviat said.

Kiviat last week recorded temperatures ranging from 95 to 104 degrees Fahrenheit. Red Hook registered 102 degrees last Friday, according to weather reports, and temperatures over the last two weeks have been regularly in the 90s.

"It's a severe drought. This week has certainly been hot and humid," Kiviat said.

### **Corn, hay hit**

Corn is beginning to mature early, producing tassels but no ears. Also, the hay crop is hard hit. "We had a

(Continued on page A6)