

Crops Bulletin

June 4, 2009
Issue 28



Prepared by
Paul Kassel
Extension Field
Agronomist

*Serving Clay, Buena
Vista, Dickinson,
Emmet, Kossuth, and
Palo Alto Counties*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.

Emergency forage options. Last winter caused a fair amount of damage to alfalfa fields. Questions have been raised about some options for summer forage crops.

Options for dry hay include oats, German millet, Japanese millet and possibly sudangrass. Forage options for silage or grazing include the dry hay options plus sorghum-sudan hybrids.

Most of these can be seeded from now until mid-July and can be expected to produce 1.5 to 3.0 tons per acre (dry matter basis) of forage. Go to this link written by Steve Barnhart for more info

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2008/0611SteveBarnhart.htm>

Soybean aphids. Brian Lang, ISU Extension Field Agronomist in NE Iowa has found soybean aphids in his research plots near Decorah IA. The aphids were at very low levels and pose no immediate threat. However, the date of this initial occurrence of aphids is similar to the initial detection dates in 2003, 2005, and 2007.

NH₃ Injury. There have been some reports of ammonia injury to corn roots this spring. Corn roots that have been injured by ammonia will have a burned/toasty appearance and the top growth will be stunted. Ammonia injury to corn can occur if the zone of ammonia injection is shallow and/or if relative dry soil conditions are present. Corn will often recover from this injury as the ammonia changes to nitrate and as improving soil moisture conditions stimulate new root growth. See

http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/soilfertility/currenttopics/Ammonia-SeedlingInjury_5_22_09.pdf for more info.

Growing degree units (GDU's). Heat accumulation (or GDUs) was slightly behind for May in northwest Iowa. Northwest Iowa normally has 370 GDUs for May – this year we had 360 GDUs. Information on growing degree can be accessed at ICM News website -

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/060109pope.htm>