

CROP NOTES for May 27, 2009

Past issues of Crop Notes are posted at:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/winneshiek/info/crops.htm>

Iowa State University Extension Information for Northeast Iowa

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WEATHER

Degree Days for Corn

From May 1 to Present:

Current for Nashua = 268 GDD (17 below normal)

Current for Cedar Rapids = 315 GDD (1 above normal)

Comments from Elwynn Taylor

Hot days in AZ; colder in NC, SC, GA, & FL. This was the pattern during the best Midwest crop years of the past. World weather patterns are complicated; July-Sep could be hot in the West, but moderate in the Midwest with a 155 bushel per acre likely corn yield. Cool & sort of dry into June? Good in the East, too much in the western Corn belt. Today the SOI (measure of La Nina) hit "0.00" so we drop a crop risk factor for the 2009 season.

SOYBEANS

Planting Soybeans in June

Stay with "normal" adapted maturity soybeans for northeast Iowa until about mid-June. The longer soybean planting is delayed, if feasible, it is suggested to use narrower rows (i.e. 15 or 20-inch vs 30-inch) since late planted soybeans don't develop as robust and cover the rows as well as earlier planted soybeans.

INSECTS

Alfalfa Weevil

No significant reports. If a problem would show up now, the recommendation would just be to harvest the alfalfa. The majority of the weevil would be killed in the harvest process.

Bean Leaf Beetle

No significant feeding activity reported on seedling soybeans.

Black Cutworm

Scouting time for northeast Iowa starts next week. An article a state map of beginning scouting dates is at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/052109pope.htm>

"Scouting Tips for Black Cutworm" is available at:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/NR/rdonlyres/229080A5-0FEE-44E7-86C0-C63F2E81654A/102248/ScoutingTipsforBlackCutworm1.pdf>

Common Stalk Borer

The 5 control options were listed in the March 18, 2009 Crop Notes. Go to that issue for details. Currently, option 3 may be considered with herbicide applications under the right circumstances.

Option 3. Apply insecticide with an "in-field" herbicide program if perennial grasses and ragweed (populations from last year) are extensive. If larva are in these weeds (i.e. quackgrass, wirestem, giant ragweed) when the weeds are killed with post-emergence herbicide, the larva are forced to move out of the weed and into something else (i.e. corn and occasionally soybeans).

Option 4 to be considered in June. For "field border" infestations, if no previous method was used, apply insecticide during larvae migration (1,100 to 1,400 DD, base 41, Jan. 1). Larva too large for a grass stem, leave the grass at this time to find a larger plant to live in (i.e. corn).

Timing an insecticide at this time along the "field border" and the first rows of corn next to the "field border" catches many of the migrating larvae. Current DD = 860 for northeast Iowa. The 1,100 to 1,400 DD window is estimated to be June 13 to 23 and will be updated in future Crop Notes.

Potato Leafhopper

This insect usually migrates into Iowa starting late May. Scouting for this pest begins after first crop and continues through August. The rainy weather is a significant deterrent on pest development, but once these rainy days quit and we get a few sunny dry days in a row, scouting for this pest should begin. Scouting tips and photos are available in this 1999 article:

<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/node/1352/print> When calculating the economic threshold, count both the adult and nymph. Close-up photos of an adult and nymph are at:
<http://www.ent.iastate.edu/imagegal/homoptera/leafhopper/potato/0212.37potatoleafhopper.html>

Reference to sweeping the field recommends a 15-inch diameter sweep net. These can be purchased from many sources, i.e. a Google search found these sources:

WILDSCO (\$35 wood handle)

http://www.wildco.com/vw_prdct_mdl.asp?prdct_mdl_cd=7905C15

Gemplers (\$35 wood handle) <http://www.gemplers.com/product/R20601/15-Muslin-Net-w-Birch-Handle>

Ben Meadows (\$30 for #300485 wood handle)

<http://www.benmeadows.com/search/insect+net/5843/>

Ben Meadows (\$38 for #300478 aluminum handle)

<http://www.benmeadows.com/search/insect+net/5844/>

PEAQ

May 26 Report - Timing First-Crop Alfalfa

Predictive Equations for Alfalfa Quality (PEAQ) is a method used to estimate forage quality of a standing alfalfa crop. The field estimation is based on the height of the tallest stem and the maturity stage of the field. It has worked very well as a "ball-park" indicator to estimate harvest time for first-crop alfalfa. The following Fact Sheet explains the PEAQ procedure, and can be used to estimate timeliness of first-crop harvest of your own fields.

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/NR/rdonlyres/11CD336E-1D82-427F-9922-49A4C48230AF/12306/FactSheetBL22.pdf>

On average alfalfa quality will drop 3 to 5 points in RFV per day in spring. It is recommended to produce alfalfa forage around 150 RFV for milking dairy herds, and 120 to 130 RFV for heifers,

stocker cattle and lactating beef cattle. Under typical hay harvest conditions, 15% of the forage dry matter will be lost. Therefore, it is suggested to cut at PEAQ readings of 165 to 170 RFV (bud stage alfalfa about 27-inches tall) to end up with harvested forage of approximately 150 RFV.

A random sampling of fields across northeast Iowa are being checked for PEAQ twice a week (Monday & Thursday).

PEAQ Results for Monday May 26:

County, Height (inches), Stage of maturity, RFV

Allamakee, 31, Bud, 152

Butler, 30, Bud, 158

Chickasaw site A, 25, Bud, 176

Chickasaw site B, 28, Bud, 164

Clayton, 25, Bud, 177

Dubuque, 28, Bud, 165

Floyd site A, 24, Bud, 180

Floyd site B, 24, Bud, 180

Floyd site C, 28, Bud, 165

Winneshiek, 27, Bud, 168

- 1) Most fields are in “Bud” stage and around that 27-inch ht. (168 RFV standing crop) to harvest dairy-quality hay (~155 harvested crop). Once the weather forecast is favorable again, it’s time to harvest.
- 2) Winter-Injured Stands. Those fields affected more so by the winter are further behind (height and stage) and are also weaker stands. They should be allowed to develop to a more mature stage (develop some blooms) to store more root carbohydrates to regain normal vigor.
- 3) Beef quality hay usually is not harvested until bloom stage.

SUMMER ANNUAL FORAGE GRASSES

Brief Review of Emergency Forage Options

The article linked below was written in June 2008 following the floods, but provides a nice summary of common warm-season annuals often used as emergency summer forages. These are usually planted in early June (once soil temperatures reach the mid-60’s F) for 2 to 3 months of summer and early fall use.

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

WEEDS

Updated Fact Sheet on Control of Horsetail (Equisetum)

Dr. Hartzler just released this updated Fact Sheet incorporating results of his recent research and some new research results from the University of Nebraska. The Fact Sheet is at:

<http://www.weeds.iastate.edu/mgmt/2009/equisetum.pdf>

EVENTS

June 3-5, World Pork Expo, Des Moines

Annual World Pork Expo at the Iowa State Fairgrounds, Des Moines. Producers, industry professionals, exhibits, tours, seminars, trade show, etc. For details, go to:

<http://www.worldpork.org/>

June 9-10, Agricultural & Food Traceability Conference, Des Moines

A 2-day conference sponsored by the Value-Added Agriculture program, the Iowa Beef Center, and the Iowa Grain Quality Initiative. Features speakers from business, research, and regulatory environments with emphasis in 3 major areas (1) Risks and rewards of adopting traceability in business operations, (2) Standards, legislative actions and other compliance factors related to traceability, (3) Processes and management strategies which could assist businesses in the implementation of traceability protocols. For registration and other details, go to:

www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/traceability/home.html

June 10-11, Cattle Feeders' Conference, Ames

A 2-day conference hosted by the Iowa Beef Center & Iowa Cattlemen's Association. Industry professionals and cattle feeders will discuss management of forces both internal and external to your operation, from labor relations to understanding your carbon footprint. For a detailed agenda, registration and other information go to:

<http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/content/cattleconference.html>

June 10-11, 4-State Dairy Nutrition & Management Conference, Dubuque

For program and registration information, go to:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/NR/rdonlyres/46CA6FE6-29AC-4DFA-AB55-68AD3E46C9F0/100179/4StateDairyConferenceRegistrationinfomation.pdf>

June 12, Ag Professional Tour, Northeast ISU Research Farm, Nashua

9:30 to Noon at the Northeast ISU Research Farm near Nashua. CCA credits available. The program will include observations and experiences related to current crop growth and development, soil fertility, and pest management problems as they develop across the area. The tour is organized by the Northeast Iowa Ag Experimental Association. 2.5 CCA credits can be earned. A \$10 registration fee will be charged at the door (\$25 for CCA credits). Pre-registration is not required. Directions: From the Jct. of Hwy 218 & B60, go west on B60 1 mile, then south on Windfall Avenue 1 mile, then east on 290th St. ¼ mile. For additional information contact George Cummins at 641-228-1453 or Brian Lang at 563-382-2949.

June 17, No-till Field Day, Decorah

Starts at 11:00 am. Free lunch at noon. Speakers to include 2 farmers (Paul Hunter & Frank Hageman) with their no-till planters to talk about their no-till operations, and Mark Hanna ISU Extension Ag Engineer to discuss no-till equipment & equipment adjustments; Matt Helmers ISU Extension Ag Engineer to talk about no-till and water quality; Andy Herringshaw ISU Ag Economics to talk about cost/benefits of no-till; NRCS to discuss soil quality. Free CCA credits in Soil & Water. Directions: Go 1 mile south of Decorah on Hwy 52 to the Gordon Hunter farm, 2331 US Highway 52.

June 17, Pasture Walk Grazing Field Day, Ridgeway

1:00 to 3:00 pm at the Jed Becker farm west of Ridgeway. One of a number of farmer lead grazing events in 2009 hosted by the Northeast Iowa Graziers. This program will highlight dairy grazing with Jersey-Holstein-Swedish Red crosses, with a discussion on cross-breeding lead by Dale Thoreson ISU Extension Dairy Specialist. Directions: On Hwy 9 to Ridgeway, one-half mile southeast of Ridgeway is the Hwy 9 and 240th St. intersection. Take 240th St. west 4 miles to the farm at 3322-240th St. The entire 2009 Pasture Walk schedule is at:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/NR/rdonlyres/229080A5-0FEE-44E7-86C0-C63F2E81654A/97997/2009PastureWalks.pdf>

June 18, Train-the-Trainer Residue Management Training Program, Northeast ISU Research Farm, Nashua

9:00 to Noon. This program targets staff from NRCS, FSA, SWCD, DNR and related agency staff, plus Ag Providers. Free 3 CCA credits in Soil & Water available. Agenda includes: 1) Carbon Credits 2) Equipment Options/Implement Adjustments 3) Cover Crops to Reduce Nitrate Leaching 4) Residue Management and its Value to Soil Quality. The program is free but pre-registration is requested by contacting the Floyd Co Extension Office at 641-228-1453.

June 18, Northeast ISU Research Farm Field Day, Nashua

1:30 to 4:30 pm. Also a poster session in the headquarters building from Noon to 1:30 pm for early arrivals. Field day speakers include (1) Elwynn Taylor, ISU Extension Climatologist, on Weather and Market Predictions for 2009, (2) Roger Elmore, ISU Extension Corn Production Specialist on Corn Production Issues, (3) Matt Helmers, ISU Extension Ag Engineer on Improving Water Quality with Bio-filters and Cover Crops, (4) Erin Hodgson, ISU Extension Entomologist on Insect Pests in 2009, and (5) Ken Pecinovsky, Farm Superintendent with Introductory Comments. The Field Day is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is not required. CCA credits will be available for a nominal fee. Direct any questions about the field day to your County Extension Office, or George Cummins (641-228-1453) or Brian Lang (563-382-2949).

June 18, Farm Bill ACRE Answers Seminar, Calmar

7:00 pm at Wilder Auditorium, NICC, Calmar. This seminar is for farm producers in Allamakee, Clayton, Fayette, Howard, Winneshiek counties, and any other interested individuals. ACRE is an election made by producers and landowners by FSA farm number. Sign-up for 2009 ACRE program has an August 14 deadline. The 90 minute session is open to the public. No registration cost, but please pre-register by phone prior to Tuesday, June 16 by calling the Winneshiek County Extension Office at 563-382-2949. The FSA Winneshiek County Director, Julie Vulk will be discussing ACRE Basics: Election, Enrollment, County Plug Yields, New Forms and Certification of Farm Yields. Steve Johnson, ISU Extension Farm Management Specialist, will cover ACRE Economics: comparing ACRE to the traditional DCP, Price and Yield Calculations, Probability of ACRE Payments and the use of the ACRE Calculator.

June 20, Iowa Goat Conference, Decorah

8:30 am. to 3:30 pm. at the Lansing Building, Winneshiek County Fairgrounds, Decorah. The conference will feature Dr. Paul Plummer, DVM, from the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine.

He will cover infectious diseases in goats. Dr. Jim Warren will speak on nutrition of the meat and dairy goat, and Terry Hooper, Dairy Lab Services, will speak on culturing milk samples, meters, scales, sampling protocol and how to interpret production information. Eric Finch, president of the Iowa Meat Goat Association will discuss breeds, genetics and marketing. Exhibit booths open at 8:30. There will be door prizes and lunch available on the grounds. For more information contact your local ISU Extension county office or Dale Thoreson, ISU Extension dairy/beef and forage specialist, at (319) 267-2707, or Sue Larson at (563) 380-0748.

June 24, Southeast ISU Research Farm Field Day, Crawfordsville

Special morning session for CCAs on residue management training (free CCAs). Noon (11:30 to 1:00), Lunch for \$5 (RSVP lunch at 319-337-2145 or fawcett@iastate.edu), also Health Checks (blood pressure & cholesterol) by the Washington Co. Health Dept. Afternoon tours start at 1:00 pm include Current Crop Concerns, Cover Crops, Monitoring Yield Data for the ACRE Program, Corn & Soybean Fungicide Trial Results, &/or Organic Crop Opportunities. For details and directions to the farm go to:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Pages/eccrops/meetserc.html>

June 25, North ISU Research Farm Field Day, Kanawha

9:30 to Noon. The program will include presentations on Corn Production Issues, Insect Management in 2009, New Soybean Traits, and Current Crop Production Concerns. Additional information will be provided as plans are finalized. The Field Day is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is not required. CCA credits will be available for a nominal fee. Direct any questions about the field day to your County Extension Office, or George Cummins 641-228-1453.

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