

CROP NOTES for June 2, 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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June 10-11, Cattle Feeders' Conference, Ames

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June 20, Iowa Goat Conference, Decorah

June 24, Southeast ISU Research Farm Field Day, Crawfordsville, CCA credits

June 25, North ISU Research Farm Field Day, Kanawha, CCA credits

July-September, Crop Management and Diagnostic Clinics, Ames (register early)

July 13-14 - [Field Diagnostic Clinic](#)

July 15-16 - [Crop Management Clinic](#)

September 2 - [Alfalfa Management Clinic](#)
September 3 - [Corn Disease Diagnostics and Management](#)
September - [Soils Clinic](#) (date announced soon)

WEATHER

Degree Days for Corn

From May 1 to Present:

Current for Nashua = 341 GDD (26 below normal)

Current for Cedar Rapids = 394 GDD (13 below normal)

Comments from Elwynn Taylor

The Midwest is often cool, with large crop yields, during summers when the Far West is hot. Summer in the West may be hot as indicated by the USDA Drought Monitor 3 month outlook at:

<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/index.php>

The most likely US corn yield is 155 bushels per acre with Dec \$4.25. I compute a 43% chance of < \$4.10.

CORN

Late Spring Soil Nitrate Test

We are getting close to the time to collect soil samples for the late spring soil nitrate test. Soil samples should be collected to a one foot depth when the corn is 6-12" tall. It is best to use a systematic method of soil sampling called "sets-of-eight" rather than a random method to collect the samples. Pull the first of 8 cores in the corn row, the next 1/8 of the distance between rows, the next 1/4 the distance between rows, etc. until you have worked your way across the rows. Do this at least twice for a total of 16 cores (2 sets-of-eight) or better yet three times for 3 sets-of-eight. This way you avoid over or under representing areas that have bands of nitrogen (i.e. anhydrous bands, manure bands, starter fertilizer). Samples should be sent to a lab immediately after sampling. Results can help to fine-tune nitrogen management or adjust manure management plans.

For more details see the publication "Nitrogen Fertilizer Recommendations for Corn in Iowa" at:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1714.pdf>

Many soil testing labs conduct the test. ISU's information sheet for Late Spring Soil Nitrate Samples is available at:

[http://www.agron.iastate.edu/soiltesting/howto\(fieldcrops\).htm](http://www.agron.iastate.edu/soiltesting/howto(fieldcrops).htm)

SOYBEANS

Planting Soybeans in June

There are still a few acres of soybean to be planted. Stay with "normal" adapted maturity soybeans for northeast Iowa until about mid-June. 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

Armyworm

Illinois and Southern Iowa are reporting some Armyworm activity in corn. Pay particular attention to no-till corn following a winter rye cover crop. Armyworm moths are highly attracted to winter rye in early spring. For photos and product control information of this pest in corn go to:

<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/2007/6-18/armyworm.html> For some addition photos of Armyworm in young corn see the attachment. They likely will not be as visible in the daytime as these photos imply. Usually

they are deep within the whorl during the day and feed mostly at night. The most common visible signs on corn during the day are evidence of leaf feeding and frass deposits from the armyworm.

Bean Leaf Beetle

You can find some BLB (or at least evidence of feeding by BLB) in most earlier planted fields, but no significant levels of feeding have been reported.

Black Cutworm

Southern Iowa reports some fields with 1 to 2% cutting. It is now time to scout for this pest in northeast Iowa until corn reaches V5 stage. "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 (1,300 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 = 993 for northeast Iowa. The 1,300 to 1,400 DD window is estimated to be June 17 to 21 and will be updated in future Crop Notes. This window would be about 1 week earlier for East central Iowa.

Potato Leafhopper

Scout after first crop. 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>

Soybean Aphid

Once again we established a soybean aphid research trial near Decorah. We will also monitor a few other locations in northeast Iowa for soybean aphid activity. As of June 1, the first scouting event at this research trial, I found a few aphids on VC to V1 stage soybeans. This initial occurrence of aphids is quite similar to those at this same location in 2003, 2005 and 2007.

Wireworm

Southern Iowa reports a number of fields with wireworm problems. This does not necessarily have any meaning for our area, but apparently this insect is a little more active than normal in 2009, at least in southern Iowa.

SUMMER ANNUAL FORAGE GRASSES

Brief Review of Emergency Forage Options

I am still getting some calls about summer annual forages, so I thought I would re-run this information from Last week's Crop Notes. 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

Good Time to Control Canada Thistle & Multiflora Rose

Now is a good time to spray both of these weeds. Canada Thistle should be sprayed right before or soon after buds start to develop, and Multiflora Rose is best sprayed when it is in full bloom. Attached are two pdf files, one for Canada Thistle and one for Multiflora Rose, which include results from recent herbicide trials conducted in Eastern Iowa.

MISCELLANEOUS

Anthracnose in Maples and Other Trees

There has been a steady number of calls into the Extension offices in Northeast Iowa about discolored leaves of trees, mostly Maples but also some other trees. These have largely been diagnosed as Anthracnose. While this is wide spread this spring, it is not a serious problem. The following article written in 1995 provides some details about this disease. <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/1995/6-9-1995/anth.html>

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.uca.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

11:00 am to 1:00 pm, followed by a free lunch. 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; Bob Vobora, 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.

July-September, Crop Management and Diagnostic Clinics, Ames

The Field Extension Education Laboratory is a 43-acre teaching and demonstration facility dedicated to providing a hands-on learning experience for crop production professionals. The demonstration plots are used to show a wide range of management problems, solutions, and diagnostic challenges. "We make the mistakes on these plots so you won't in the future!" The clinics and programs are taught by Iowa State University staff and faculty and invited specialists from other institutions and industry. Modern, air-conditioned classroom facilities complement the in-field sessions, all of which are within walking distance. Current open programs for this summer include the following. Just click on the program title (Ctrl + Click) for details:

July 13-14 - [Field Diagnostic Clinic](#)

July 15-16 - [Crop Management Clinic](#)

September 2 - [Alfalfa Management Clinic](#)

September 3 - [Corn Disease Diagnostics and Management](#)

September - [Soils Clinic](#) (date announced soon)

For other Agribusiness Education program information, check out the Homepage at:

<http://www.aep.iastate.edu/homepage.html>

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