

## **CROP NOTES for June 16, 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**

*By Brian Lang, ISU Extension Agronomist*

*911 S. Mill Street, Decorah, IA 52101*

*563-382-2949*

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

### **WEATHER**

Degree Days for Corn

### **NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT**

Late Spring Soil Nitrate Test - Nearing End of Sampling Window

Nitrogen Fertilizer Recommendations for Pastures

### **INSECTS**

Black Cutworm

Common Stalk Borer

European Corn Borer

Potato Leafhopper

Soybean Aphid

### **DISEASE**

Soybean Rust Update

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Emerald Ash Borer Resource Web Site

Brush Management With Herbicides

### **EVENTS**

June 17, No-till Field Day, Decorah, Free CCA credits

June 17, Pasture Walk Grazing Field Day, Ridgeway

June 18, Train-the-Trainer No-till Program, Northeast ISU Research Farm, Nashua, Free CCA credits

June 18, Northeast ISU Research Farm Field Day, Nashua, CCA credits

June 18, Farm Bill ACRE Answers Seminar, Calmar

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:

Nashua = 701 GDD (56 below normal)

Cedar Rapids = 831 GDD (27 below normal)

## **NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT**

### **Late Spring Soil Nitrate Test - Nearing End of Sampling Window**

Sample when corn is 6 to 12 inches tall. Soil samples should be collected to a one foot depth in a systematic method called "sets-of-eight". 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)

### **Nitrogen Fertilizer Recommendations for Pastures**

This article was posted in the June 2009 Iowa Beef Center Newsletter

[http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/content/IBCNewsletters/newsletter\(JUNE\).pdf](http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/content/IBCNewsletters/newsletter(JUNE).pdf)

## **INSECTS**

### **Black Cutworm**

Many fields in northeast Iowa are now V5 stage which should be safe from Black cutworm. Scouting details are available in previous Crop Notes.

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

### **Common Stalk Borer**

The 5 control options were listed in the March 18, 2009 Crop Notes. Go to that issue for details.

Currently, option 4 may be considered for control if previous options were not used.

Option 4: For "field border" infestations, 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. The 1,300 to 1,400 DD window is estimated to be June 15 to 19. This window would be about 1 week earlier for East central Iowa.

### **European Corn Borer (ECB)**

Moths flights of European Corn Borer are just starting to occur. Corn that is non-Bt ECB is vulnerable to this pest once the corn reaches 17 inches tall (extended leaf height). At this stage of development the natural compound DIMBOA is diluting out to no longer offer protection against ECB. So, once non-BT ECB corn gets above this height, it is time to work these fields into your scouting program to look for signs of leaf feeding. If leaf feeding is found, scout 50 plants (10 plants in 5 locations), pull their whorls, unroll the whorls and count ECB larvae per plant. A typical threshold of about one-half larvae per plant average justifies treatment with insecticide. Photos and additional information on this are found at:

<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/1999/6-21-1999/scoutforecb.html>

## **Potato Leafhopper**

Scout weekly after first crop. Scouting tips and photos are available in the 2009 ICM article at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0615hodgson.htm>

## **Soybean Aphid**

The soybean aphid research trial near Decorah continues to show populations and infestation levels similar to those at this same location in 2003, 2005 and 2007. Currently the plot has aphids on about 24% of the plants with infested plants averaging 1.3 aphids per plant.

## **DISEASE**

### **Soybean Rust Update**

Soybean rust was found on some soybeans in both Louisiana and Alabama. This is the earliest seasonal occurrence of rust on soybeans in these states since rust entered the United States. Weather in the region is favorable for spread of the disease. As in past seasons, watching the progress of this disease can be done at the following USDA web site: <http://sbr.ipmpipe.org/cgi-bin/sbr/public.cgi>

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Emerald Ash Borer Resource Web Site**

Numerous resources and Q&A about the pest.

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/PME/EmeraldAshBorer.html>

### **Brush Management With Herbicides**

This is a June 2009 article written by Dr. Hartzler on basic brush management.

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/acreage/AL2009/aljune09.html#conservation>

## **EVENTS**

### **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 240<sup>th</sup> St. intersection. Take 240<sup>th</sup> St. west 4 miles to the farm at 3322-240<sup>th</sup> 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 (\$50 fee for CCAs and \$10 for non-CCAs). Noon (11:30 to 1:00), Lunch for \$5 (RSVP lunch at 319-337-2145 or [fawcett@iastate.edu](mailto: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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Brian J Lang

ISU Extension Agronomist

911 S. Mill Street, Decorah, IA 52101

Ph 563-382-2949

Cell 563-387-7058

Fax 563-382-2940

Email [bjlang@iastate.edu](mailto:bjlang@iastate.edu)