

CROP NOTES for October 15, 2009

Past issues of Crop Notes are posted at:

www.extension.iastate.edu/winneshiek/info/crops.htm

Iowa State University Extension Information for Northeast Iowa

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WEATHER

Soil Temperatures

The current 4-inch soil temperature is approx. 45 F.

Soil temperatures and 6-10 day forecasts are posted at:

<http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/NPKnowledge/>

POST-HARVEST TIPS FOR LATE MATURING CORN

Corn Froze During Milk Stage

Yield potential for corn frozen during the milk stage is low. Ears are difficult to pick and shell, kernel tips may stay on the cobs, and grain will be very chaffy. Therefore, green chopping or ensiling whole plants may be the only reasonable options.

Can High Moisture of Silage be Adjusted? While it is true that dry feed grains or chopped hay can be blended with wetter-than-recommended forage to soak up the excess water, it requires a lot of grain or hay, and thorough blending to achieve the desired result. For example, to bring chopped immature corn of a moisture content of about 80% down to about 65% moisture, it would require 400 to 500 lbs. of dry shelled corn or dry wheat grain per ton of chopped wet corn. For best results, this grain should be coarsely ground and thoroughly blended with the chopped corn as the silo is being filled. This is just not a practical solution for most producers, because silos should be filled and packed quickly to minimize extended exposure to air.

Corn Froze at Dough Stage

Test weights will be much less, probably 40 to 45 lb/bu., and grain yields reduced to about half of normal. Although corn will eventually dry to an acceptable harvest moisture, it will take at least a week longer than mature grain. During the extended drying period, field losses due to stalk breakage and ear dropping will increase. Ear molds will likely develop if warm ambient temperatures follow the frost. The only means of stopping mold growth are drying the grain or ensiling. Standing corn in the field may dry 0.6 to 0.9 percentage point per day during warm, dry fall days with a breeze. However, normal dry down is about 0.3 to 0.4 percent during October and 0.15 to 0.2 or less in November.

Corn Froze at Dent Stage

A hard freeze in the dent stage will result in somewhat lower test weights, longer dry-down time, and likely more cracked kernels, breakage and fines to manage.

Field Dry-Down. Standing corn in the field may dry 0.6 to 0.9 percentage point per day during warm, dry fall days with a breeze. However, normal dry down is about 0.3 to 0.4 percent during October and 0.15 to 0.2 or less in November. Based on the equilibrium moisture content for the average monthly temperature and relative humidity, corn might be expected to dry to about 15.5 percent moisture content during September, 16 percent during October and 19 percent during November. Field drying normally is more economical until mid to late October and mechanical high-temperature drying normally is more economical after that.

High Moisture Shelled Corn should be between 26 and 36% moisture depending on storage structure and if the corn is rolled or not. See the grain moisture table in:

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/crops/HMcorn2000.htm> Whole shelled corn can be stored in oxygen-limiting silos, but a medium grind is recommended for proper packing in horizontal or conventional upright silos. Wet grain exerts more pressure on the silo than corn silage, so conventional concrete stave silos may require additional hoops or the silo must not be completely filled. More details on High Moisture Corn Harvest are available in the link provided above from the University of Wisconsin.

Crib Corn. The desired moisture content for safe cribbing of ear corn is 20% or less. Late in the season when temperatures are consistently near or below freezing, ear corn can be cribbed at moisture contents of 22 to 25%. Crib width of 6 to 9 feet can be used for 20% moisture or less and widths of 4 to 5 feet for 20 to 25% moisture corn. The importance of clean husking cannot be over-emphasized, since the husks greatly reduce airflow through the crib. Locate corncribs away from buildings in a well-drained area oriented with the side facing the prevailing wind.

Shelled Corn

First, here are two articles written last fall to deal with a wet crop at harvest which apply as well to this fall.

Dr. Mark Hanna's article on combine adjustment tips for a wetter crop.

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2008/0923hanna.htm>

Dr. Charles Hurburgh's article on corn quality issues with harvest and storage of a wetter crop.

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2008/1023hurburghrobertson.htm>

Second, here is a 2009 publication from SDSU on "The Cost of Wet Corn at Harvest", including drying and storage tips.

<http://agbiopubs.sdstate.edu/articles/ExEx5056.pdf>

and SDSU's related publication "Grain Drying Guidelines for a Wet Fall Harvest"

<http://agbiopubs.sdstate.edu/articles/ExEx1014.pdf>

SOYBEANS

Grain Drying and Storage

Some of the soybean crop being combined is on the wet side (harvested at 14 to 15% moisture). For proper storage, soybeans need to be dried to at least 13% for short-term storage and at least 11% for long-term storage. Soybeans harvested at less than 15 percent moisture can generally be dried with fans

sized for routine aeration (0.1-0.2 cfm/bu.). Above that, likely requires low-temperature drying.

For more details, go to: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1636.pdf>

EVENTS

Oct. 22, Food & Fitness Initiative Fall Conference, Luther College

9:00 am to 2:00 pm, Valders, Luther College. The NE IA Food & Fitness Initiative is hosting a fall conference to present information on Farm to School, School Wellness policies, funding opportunities and youth engagement. For more information, contact Teresa Wiemerslage, 563-794-0599, wiemer@iastate.edu The Food & Fitness website is: www.iowafoodandfitness.org

Oct., Nov., Dec, Farm Income Tax School

Oct. 28-29 in Waterloo plus other dates and locations. This program is designed for those experienced in preparing tax returns for others and an understanding of basic tax rules and regulations. Two-day sessions at various locations across Iowa. For more information, go to: <http://www.calt.iastate.edu/taxschool.html>

Nov. 5, Ag Lenders Seminar, Midway Motel, Dubuque

10:00-3:00, Annual meeting for agricultural lenders. For more information contact Larry Tranel, 563-583-6496, Extension 14, tranel@iastate.edu

Nov. 16, Wills & Estate Plans, Waukon

5:30-7:00, A program to discuss basic planning to enable successful asset transfers with minimal tax consequences. Many people postpone making plans to distribute their assets until it's too late. For more information contact Erin Ludwig, Family Resource Management Specialist, 563-382-2949, eludwig@iastate.edu To register (\$9.00 fee) call the NICC Center at 1-800-728-2256 ex. 399.

Nov. 18, Pasture-Walk Event, Dorchester

1:00 to 3:00 pm, hosted by Ryan and Kristine Jepsen on their farm at 2712 Hoover Dr., Dorchester. The grazing field day will emphasize this New farm in 2007 raising and direct marketing grass-fed beef, and strip grazing on standing corn. Directions: From Dorchester, take A-16 (Dorchester Dr.) west 5 miles to Hoover Dr. The farm is at the end of Hoover Dr.

Nov. 24, Ag Chemical Dealer Update, Calmar & Waterloo

Details to be posted soon. Designed for seed, chemical, and fertilizer dealers, crop consultants, farm managers and agronomists. Each meeting provides crop production updates on soil fertility and crop pests (insects, diseases, weeds), plus meets requirements for re-certification of Commercial Pesticide Applicators in categories 1A, 1B, 1C, and 10 for 2009. Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) credits also available. Registration information for all Ag Chem Dealer Updates (Calmar, Waterloo, Iowa City and other locations) will be posted by the end of October at: <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/acu/homepage.html>

Dec. 2-3, Integrated Crop Management Conference, Ames

Details to be posted in within 2 weeks at the following web site: <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/icm/homepage.html>

Dec. 11, Cerro Gordo and Worth County Crop Clinics

Details to be posted soon. Locations: Lutheran Church, Northwood; United Methodist Church, 508 2nd Av N, Clear Lake.

Dec. 14, Ag Chemical Dealer Update, Iowa City

Details to be posted soon. Designed for seed, chemical, and fertilizer dealers, crop consultants, farm managers and agronomists. The meeting provides crop production updates on soil fertility and crop pests (insects, diseases, weeds), plus meets requirements for re-certification of Commercial Pesticide Applicators in categories 1A, 1B, 1C, and 10 for 2009. Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) credits also available. Registration information for all Ag Chem Dealer Updates (Calmar, Waterloo, Iowa City and other locations) will be posted by the end of October at: <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/acu/homepage.html>

Dec. 17, Chickasaw/Floyd Crop Clinic, Raleigh Hill Country Club, 2048 Cheyenne Av., Ionia

Registration starts at 9:00. Morning program includes Elwynn Taylor, ISU Extension Climatologist on "Crop Weather Outlook", and Chad Hart, ISU Extension Marketing Specialist on "Outline Marketing Strategies for Lowering Risks and Maximizing Profits". From 1:00 to 2:00 Brian Lang, ISU Extension Agronomist discusses "Corn and Soybean Aphids" and "Corn and Soybean Diseases in 2009". From 2:00 to 3:00 are required topics for Private Pesticide

Applicator re-certification. Those wanting re-certification are required to attend the program from 1:00 to 3:00, but are welcome to attend the entire program. Those not requiring Private Pesticide Applicator re-certification are welcome to stay through 2:00 pm.

There is no charge for the morning program and the noon meal is free due to sponsors Five Star Co-op, Qualisoy, Farm Credit Services, and the Floyd, Mitchell and Chickasaw County Farm Bureaus. However producers must register for the noon meal. Those attending for Private Pesticide Applicator re-certification pay a \$20 fee at the door. Certified Crop Advisor credits will also available at \$20 for the day (1 CM 9:30-10:30, 1 PD 10:30-11:30, 1 PM 1:00-2:00). To register, contact the Floyd County Extension office at 641-228-1453.

Commercial Pesticide Applicator Re-certification Programs

For registration information on these programs, go to:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pme/ComAp.html>

Oct. 28, 9:00-11:30, Mosquito and Public Health, Cat. 7D, 8 and 10.

Nov. 4, 1:30-4:00, Ornamental and Turfgrass, Cat. 2, 3O, 3OT, and 10.

Nov. 18, 9:00-11:45, Commercial Ag, Cat. 1A, 1B, 1C, and 10.

Dec. 1, 9:00-11:00, Fumigation, Cat. 7C and Cat 10.

Dec. 2, 9:00-11:30, Pest Control Operators, Cat. 7A, 7B, 8, and 10.

TBA, Greenhouse, Cat. 3G, 3O, and 10.

TBA, Aerial Applicators, Cat. 11 and 10.

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