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Crop Update

Rain over the weekend was a blessing for most of west central Iowa. While there were some hit and miss showers the previous two weeks, this weekend's showers covered most of the area and provided some needed rain in areas that had been missed.

Corn is growing well and for the most part is to the fourth to sixth leaf stage. Meaning danger from black cutworm cutting is almost past. Black cutworm cutting in west central Iowa has been nearly non-existent.

Soybean are anywhere from just emerging to the second tri-foliolate leaf stage. The overwintering population of the bean leaf beetles is very weak. I have heard of few fields that had problems and those were minor.

Alfalfa and hay cutting is well underway. From what I've heard the quantity and quality is pretty good, except in the fields that had some winter injury.

Soybean Aphids

Fellow ISU Extension field agronomist, Brian Lang, has found soybean aphids in one of his research plots in northeast Iowa near Decorah. The aphids were in very low levels and pose no immediate threat. The date of initial detection is similar to the 2003, 2005 and 2007 years.

For those that are technological savvy go to <http://www.aphidalert.com>. This is a website that links to a USDA aphid reporting site. The site will send email or text message updates of aphid activity directly to you.

Iowa Learning Farm Field Day

There is a field day at the Lewis Byers' Farm (3823 110th Street, Pierson, IA) on Thursday, June 11 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. This field day will feature cover crop usage and management; discussion of row crop planter attachments and set-up; and local perspectives on aerial seeding of winter rye. There is a complimentary meal. RSVPs are requested to the Woodbury or Plymouth NRCS offices.

Soybean Cyst Nematode Workshop

The soybean cyst nematode (SCN) is widely considered the most damaging soybean pest in the Midwest. Effective long-term management of SCN requires thorough knowledge of SCN biology and use of field scouting, resistant soybean varieties, and non-host crops in an integrated management approach. An all-day workshop focused on SCN will be held on Wednesday, July 29, 2009, in Ames. Topics of discussion at the workshop will include: basic biology of SCN; how the nematode modifies living soybean cells to support itself; proper techniques for in-season scouting and soil sampling for SCN; integrated management of SCN to maintain profitable soybean production; and how performance of SCN-resistant soybean varieties varies among SCN-infested fields. [Brochures available here.](#)

Corn Nematode Workshop

There is increased interest in plant-parasitic nematodes as pests of corn. On Thursday, July 30, 2009, there will be an all-day workshop in Ames focused on the basics of the biology and management of corn nematodes. Specific topics of discussion in the workshop will include: review of the nematode species that can damage corn; corn nematode life cycles and feeding habits; symptoms of nematode damage on corn; how to sample to determine if nematodes are damaging corn; and current and future management options for nematodes on corn. [Brochures available here.](#)