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Crop Update

Even with high winds, heavy rain, and the occasional hail stone the crops in west central Iowa are looking good. I have seen a field that had greensnap at the 6th and 7th leaf stage that cut the stand by approximately 2,000 plants per acre. To date I have not heard of any hail that caused significant damage, but have heard of reports of minor hail damage.

Corn is at or near the 8th leaf and soybeans are at or near the 5th trifoliolate stage. We are experiencing perfect temperatures for corn growth. Elwynn Taylor, ISU climatologist, mentioned on last Monday's teleconference that corn GDD during periods with adequate moisture can benefit from 90°F+ temperatures, but when moisture is deficient then even 86°F can be too hot.

Insects and disease at this stage of the game are non-issues, but that doesn't mean they shouldn't be scouted for. Keep an eye out and look for corn rootworm larvae, first generation bean leaf beetle feeding, and soybean aphids.

Soybean Aphid Update

At the ISU field agronomist weekly teleconference this past Monday, it was noted that soybean aphids could be easily found in northeast and central Iowa, but at very low levels. This is an indicator that we need to be on the look out for this pest.

The threshold for soybean aphid treatment is 250 aphids per plant on 80% of the plants with a rising population. As we learned in 2008, this threshold does not change with higher commodity prices.

Asian Soybean Rust Update

Asian Soybean Rust (ASR) is behaving differently this year compared to past years according to Daren Mueller, ISU plant pathologist. Rust has shown up in Louisiana and Alabama, which is not unusual, but has shown up several weeks earlier than in past years. There has also been plenty of rain for ASR to increase spore production in the south. Currently, there is no major risk for the Midwest. ASR prediction maps, emailed rust reports and other rust related information can be found at '[The Rust Report](#)' website provided by ISU Plant Pathology.

Corn rootworm larvae

You can now find corn rootworm larvae out in the corn fields. Check refuge acres to see how severe damage might be. Damage can be detected by digging and washing roots. Those roots that appear scarred or that are pruned to within an inch of the plant are symptoms of corn rootworm damage.

ICM News Must Read Articles

Here are some links to the [ICM News](#) articles that I feel are must reads.

- [Hail Injury on Corn](#)
- [European Corn Borer Numbers are Up in 2009](#)
- [Time to Scout for Corn Rootworm Larvae](#)

Upper Midwest Manure Handling Expo

Iowa State University and the Iowa Commercial Nutrient Applicators Association will present the 2009 Upper Midwest Manure Handling Expo on July 22 at the Central Iowa Expo center in Boone, Iowa.

This expo is designed to provide a chance to discuss and compare manure-handling equipment, products and services and to provide educational opportunities for applicators and consultants. Attendees

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will have the opportunity to interact with exhibitors, view manure application equipment demonstrations, and to attend educational seminars and demonstrations.

The educational seminars include Managing Biosecurity on Swine Farms during Manure Removal, Hydrogen Sulfide Management during Manure Removal from Swine Deep Pits, Advances in Subsurface Application of Solid Manures, Iowa CAFO/AFO Regulation Update, Research Review of Solid and Liquid Manure Application on Frozen Ground, Managing Manure Application over Tile. The educational demonstrations will be related to drag hose safety and will include considerations for spill response, leak detection, and ruptured hose response.

General admission to the expo is free and parking is available on site for \$5 per car. Here's a link to the [Upper Midwest Manure Handling Expo](#) website for more information.