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Crop Update

Corn and soybeans continue to look great. Cooler weather this week with less rain will be more of a benefit to those working fields than the crops themselves. But that should mean spraying progress will make great strides. Soybeans are starting to bloom, corn is shoulder/head high. There may be some fields that start to tassel by the end of the week, but most will likely be later.

Soybean Aphids Spreading

At teleconference this morning Erin Hodgson, ISU entomologist, reported that aphids should be found easily across Iowa, BUT at very low levels. This makes it a very good time to get out and start scouting.

A side note on aphids... they do extremely well in conditions that are cool. Actually, 72°F to 77°F for average temperatures with relative humidity less than 78% is optimal for aphid reproduction and longevity.

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.

Corn Rootworms

Corn rootworm larvae can now be found in corn fields across Iowa. Check for damage by digging and washing roots. Root damage should be showing up in the next week or so.

ICM News Must Read Articles

Here is a link to an [ICM News](#) article that I feel is a must read.

- [Weeds are Winning the Battle, Plan Now for Next Year.](#)

Asian Soybean Rust Spreads Up Mississippi River

There has been significant movement of spores along the lower Mississippi River making it possible for spores to reach Illinois and Indiana. BUT rainfall favorability in these regions is low. Epidemic risk is very low as well.

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 Field Guides Available

Iowa State University has just released a new field guide... Corn Field Guide. This field guide has great information and very descriptive pictures ranging from insects, diseases, growth stages, herbicide injury, and nutrient deficiencies. It is a nice 83 page, spiral bound notebook that fits in your front pocket. You can order these by weeks end from the [Extension Online Store](#) or go to your local Extension office.

Soybean Disease and Pest Management Field Guide and Soybean Aphid Field Guide Also Available

Order these from the [Extension Online Store](#) or go to your local Extension office.

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

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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.