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## Crop Update

The corn is mostly tasseled and silking is occurring. If took fields a couple days longer to go from first to last tassel, likely due to the cool, wet conditions. There is some minor occurrences of gray leaf spot and common rust. Eyespot is more of a problem, especially in fields north of highway 20. I'm seeing some corn rootworm beetles, both western and northern, but have heard of no reports of problems.

Soybeans are still flowering and there are some pods being set. Brown spot, bacterial blight and some fields of frogeye are out there, but nothing of great concern at this point. While soybean aphids can be found, it is still difficult to find them and they are at low numbers. Weeds are starting to break through fields that have not reached canopy cover. There are some concerns that legal, labeled rates for glyphosate have been reached already.

## Soybean Aphid Update

Soybean aphids are still difficult to find in west central Iowa. Colleagues to the north and east are reporting the same thing, but a colleague in extreme northeast Iowa has reported 95% aphid incidence (how easy it is to find aphids), but severity is approximately 13 aphids per plant. It is unwise to spray and insecticide before the 250 aphid per plant threshold is reached. This is regardless of whether or not the chemical company has a guarantee.

## ICM News Must Read Articles

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

- [Concerns About Herbicide Resistant Weeds in Iowa.](#)
- [Eyespot and Gray Leaf Spot Occurring in Corn.](#)
- [Should Hail Damaged Crops be Sprayed with a Fungicide?](#)

## Soybean Development

It has been commented that soybean flowering is extended this year, but that is not really the case. In teleconference this morning Palle Pedersen, ISU Extension soybean specialist, said that soybeans will flower through the R3 growth stage. Cool, wet weather has slowed the soybean growth rate and therefore more flowers and pods are aborting.

It is important to remember that it is still early in the year. Normal flower abortion is 60-75% and normal pod set is 40 to 60 pods. In short, warmer weather in the next couple of weeks will help with pod set. Palle also mentions that its not the number of pods that makes yield, but rather the number of seeds per plant.

## Corn Diseases and Fungicide Use

Make plans now to check for foliar leaf diseases. Problematic levels of gray leaf spot are being reported in Nebraska, Kansas and southwest Iowa. Eyespot is being reported at low levels in northwest and north central Iowa. Common rust is being reported as found, but minor across Iowa.

Fields that are likely to benefit from fungicides are; 1) corn following corn fields, 2) fields with susceptible hybrids, 3) fields with high yield potential, and 4) fields with hybrids that tend to lodge.

If fungicides are used keep in mind that harvest conditions will be altered. Stalks will be greener and grain will be slightly wetter. Both will result in the need for slower combine speeds. Wetter grain could, depending on second half weather, higher grain drying costs.

### **Potato Leaf Hoppers are in Alfalfa**

Potato leaf hoppers are causing problems out there. If you have NOT planted a resistant/tolerant alfalfa variety, you should scout for this pest. Make sure you manage this pest because if you don't alfalfa yields will be affected. Treatment thresholds range greatly depending on alfalfa height and cost of control. View for more detail on [potato leaf hoppers](#).

### **Corn Plant Populations and Row Spacing Field Day**



Corn plant populations and row spacing will be the focus of a field day sponsored by ISU Extension in Sac County on August 20, from 9am to 11am. This field day will discuss current and projected plant populations as well as look at the reasons for a movement toward 20-inch row spacing. Dale Drey, a local famer, will host the event on one of his fields located on Quincy Avenue northwest of Sac City. The farm is located 1.75 mile north of highway 20.

### **Upper Midwest Manure Handling Expo**

The Upper Midwest Manure Handling Expo is scheduled for July 22 at the Central Iowa Expo site between Ames and Boone. This expo will be a great opportunity to see many different kinds of liquid and dry manure application equipment. The expo will include educational sessions, exhibitors, and field demonstrations as well as a spill response demonstration. There is no fee to attend the expo, however parking is \$5 per vehicle. A complete list of expo activities and maps can be accessed at: [http://www.ag.iastate.edu/wastemgmt/expo\\_home.htm](http://www.ag.iastate.edu/wastemgmt/expo_home.htm).

### **Residue Management Training Workshop**

Crop residue plays a significant role in improving soil quality, reducing soil erosion, increasing soil organic matter, and provides numerous other benefits towards soil productivity. ISU and SARE are putting on a Residue Management Training Workshop on August 18 from 9am to 3pm at the ISU Extension office, in Storm Lake. There will be 3.5 credits in Soil and Water Management for Certified Crop Advisors. Registration is free, but preregistration is requested at the Buena Vista County Extension office (712-732-5056) prior to the event.

ISU Extension  
Buena Vista County Office  
Storm Lake  
August 18, 2009  
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Crop residue plays a significant role in improving soil quality, reducing soil erosion, increasing soil organic matter, and provides numerous other benefits towards improving soil productivity. Proper management of crop residue requires an understanding of its basic functions and values. Appropriate implementation of residue management will help maximize these soil improving benefits.

This workshop targets agricultural professionals including Extension, NRCS and FSA personnel, Crop consultants, Ag dealers and other individuals interested in soil and water quality.

Workshop objectives:

1. Provide training on the role of crop residue in improving soil and water quality.
2. Show the importance of residue in improving soil organic matter.
3. Present management alternatives for handling crop residue.

Workshop topics:

- U° Iowa Learning Farm and Western Research and Demonstration Farm residue removal trial
- U° Implement adjustment for better residue management
- U° Residue management and its value to soil quality and carbon credit
- U° Cover crops, erosion and nitrogen-leaching
- U° Farmer panel with open discussion: conservation practices and issues

No registration fee is required, but pre-registration is requested.

This program includes lunch and provides 3.5 credits in Soil and Water Management for Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs). For preregistration please call the Buena Vista County Extension Office (712) 732-5056 or ISU Agronomy Extension (515) 294-1923.

Directions to the office: From Hwy 7, go to the intersection of Hwy. 7 and Russell Drive. The office is located in the Prairie Lakes Agency building at 824 Flindt Drive with parking just west of Dairy Queen.



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