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Crop Update

Again this week the crop continues to change appearance rapidly. There will be soybeans harvested yet this week in west central Iowa. Corn chopped for silage will be starting in the next week as well. Some corn for grain has already been harvested in areas that received severe hail damage. This corn is not in good condition at all. Test weights are in the mid-40s, moisture in the low 20s, damage up to 35%, and yields as low as 25 bu/acre. Dockage on this grain is likely to be 50% of the commodity price.

Rapid Color Change

The corn and soybeans are changing color rapidly. For soybeans this might not be as surprising, but the corn is turning quickly this year. Soybeans started their color change with Sudden Death Syndrome more than a month ago already. There has also been anthracnose and *Cercospora* that are causing color change.

The corn color change is alarming many individuals. I keep reminding them that this really has been a long year with a cool and wet May/June, cool July/August, and now September is warm and dry. Those environmental conditions are not optimal. The early cool/wet conditions limited root growth and likely leached nitrogen out of the roots. Now in September we are seeing quite a bit of nitrogen deficiency or nitrogen firing up the lower stalks. It is likely due to a combination of small root systems and nitrogen leaching.

Grain Quality of Hailed Corn Clinic

Thursday, September 17 there will be two clinics to address the grain quality of hailed corn. The first, at 9:30am is at the Callendar Library, 505 Thomas Street. The second, at 1:30pm is at the Hays Loft in Wall Lake, 130 West 1st. More information is attached.

Stalk Rots and Ear Rots

It seems every year there are some questions on stalk rots and ear rots. This year, I expect the same especially where nitrogen was deficient or where hail damage caused extra stalk damage or cannibalization of the stalk. Here are two good sources for stalk and ear rots (both can be ordered at the [Extension On-Line Store](#) or check availability at your county Extension office.

- [Corn Diseases, PM596](#)
- [Scouting for Corn Diseases, CSI0002](#)

Ear Quality Study—Your Help is Needed

Drs. Alison Robertson and Gary Munkvold are conducting a study to look at ear quality from hail damaged fields. This is being coordinated by Bill Arndorfer. They would like to have farmers/agronomists collect 24 ears from hail-damaged fields within 48-hours of harvest along with production information from each field. In total they are looking for 100 fields across the state. If you are interested in participating in this study please contact me (lichtma@iastate.edu, 712-790-7233) or Bill Arndorfer (barndorf@iastate.edu, 515-290-0922).

Production information requested;

- Field location
 - Hybrid
 - Date of hail storm
 - Size of hail stones
 - Duration of hail storm
 - Percent damage to crop
 - Growth stage at time of hail damage
- Fungicide applied

ICM News Must Read Articles

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

- [Quality issues related to hail damaged crops](#)

Grain Quality of Hailed Corn Clinic



Thursday, September 17, 2009

- ⇒ 9:30 —11:30 am—**Callender meeting**; Callender Library, 505 Thomas Street
- ⇒ 1:30—3:30 pm—**Wall Lake meeting**; Hays Loft, 130 West 1st

For more information contact:

- ISU Extension, Sac Co.
712-662-7131
- ISU Extension, Calhoun Co.
712-297-8611
- ISU Extension, Webster Co.
515-576-2119

- **Explanation of ear rots and their ability to produce mycotoxins**—Alison Robertson, ISU Extension Field Crops Pathologist
- **Marketing issues**—Charles Hurburgh, Jr., ISU Professor in Charge, Iowa Grain Quality Initiative
- **Feeding light test weight corn**—Russ Euken, ISU Extension Livestock Program Specialist
- **Agronomic issues**—John Holmes and Mark Licht, ISU Extension Field Agronomists



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Hail Damage – Grain Quality Survey

Iowa State University is conducting a survey to assess the impact of hail damage on ear rot severity, mycotoxin contamination and grain quality in corn.

Protocol

- 1). Identify corn fields with hail damage and notify: [Bill Arndorfer \(barndorf@iastate.edu\)](mailto:barndorf@iastate.edu); CELL: 515-290-0922; OFFICE: 319-234-6811) of your intent to participate in the survey.
- 2). The following information is required for each field. ***Note:** *Samples without this information cannot be processed.**

- **Field location** (GPS co-ordinates **OR** Section, Township)
- **Hybrid**
- **Date of hail storm**
- **Size of hail stones**
- **Duration of hail storm**
- **Percent damage to crop**
- **Growth stage of crop at time of hail damage**
- **Fungicide applied** YES / NO (*If YES: Product and Date fungicide applied*)

*If a **fungicide was applied**, and an untreated check strip was left in the field, ear samples from both the untreated and treated areas of the field are encouraged.*

*If an undamaged field of the **same hybrid** occurs nearby, ear samples from the undamaged and damaged fields are encouraged.*

- 3). Collect 24 ears from each identified field within 48 hours of harvest.
 - Collect ears from 8 locations in each identified field. (***Note:** *Each location should be a minimum of 25 paces apart.*)
 - At each location: collect 3 ears from three consecutive plants.
 - Do not remove or peel back the husks from the ear.
- 4). Place the 24 ears in a box. Use crumpled newspaper as packing material. Please do NOT pack the ears in plastic bags.
- 5). Ship the ears by overnight mail to:

Hail Damage Grain Quality Survey
351 Bessey Hall
Ames, IA 50014

What to Expect

For each field sample submitted, a report of ear rot prevalence and severity, mycotoxin levels and grain quality characteristics of each sample will be prepared and emailed to the person submitting the sample.