

For what it's worth...

Pastures are green, alfalfa is green. A sign that spring is almost here. Or is it... on an agronomy teleconference this morning Elwynn Taylor, ISU Extension climatologist, mentioned that this will be the year we go from winter to summer with no spring. Currently we running below normal for air and soil temperature. Taylor says that summer will arrive in about three weeks.

It goes without saying that corn planting is non-existent still. But when it does go there are many things to consider to achieve uniform planting conditions and emergence. The one option to consider is waiting for soil moisture and temperatures to be ideal. Does anyone remember the spring of 2007? Looking back at NASS Iowa Crop and Weather reports, the spring of 2008 thus far is almost identical to 2007. I certainly remember that in 2007 we saw problems such as rootless corn and sidewall compaction related to planting into un-ideal conditions. Keep in mind that corn yield response to planting date is unaffected until we get into mid-May. Roger Elmore, ISU Extension corn agronomist, notes that only one in four years do we have more than 10% of the corn planted before the third week in April.

On the soybean side of things... Spring planting is going to be crucial. Palle Pedersen, ISU Extension soybean agronomist, has reported that planting conditions should be ideal before planting this year. He says this for multiple reasons; 1) availability of high quality soybeans for replants are going to be low and 2) even high quality seed is not what we have seen in the past and is likely going to have phomopsis. Seed quality problems this year are due to mechanical damage or fungal pathogens and depends on where the seed was produced. If the fungal pathogen was phomopsis a seed treatment could be beneficial to help get a better germination and emergence rate.

ISU's Soil Fertility Web Site Gets Redesigned

The Iowa State University Agronomy Extension Soil Fertility web site has undergone a recent redesign. While the site (<http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/soilfertility/>) has been a resource for several years, it was in need of an overhaul. Part of the update was to improve flow and access to the different areas of the site.

Insect Resistance Management (aka Refuges)

While the pressure and desire for top corn yields is on don't forget to plant transgenic corn refuges. Here are the Insect Resistance Management (IRM) programs for *Bt* European Corn Borer and *Bt* rootworm corn.

***Bt* European Corn Borer:** Grower plants up to 80% with *Bt* corn and at least 20% non corn borer *Bt*. The non corn borer *Bt* must be planted within, adjacent to or near the *Bt* corn fields (must be within 1/2 mile). If planted in strips the strips must be no narrower than four rows.

***Bt* Rootworm:** Grower plants a structured refuge of 20% non-*Bt* rootworm corn that can be treated with insecticides. Can not apply corn rootworm labeled insecticide while rootworms are present unless both the *Bt* and non-*Bt* refuge are treated similarly. Refuge may be in a block in or adjacent to the field or as in-field strips of at least 4-6 rows depending on the trait.

If growing a *Bt* corn stack that has genes for both corn borer and rootworm, you must follow the refuge for the rootworm corn.

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Serving; Calhoun,
Carroll, Crawford,
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Webpage's to View:

- [Corn Planting Guide](#)
- [Planter Tips](#)
- [Soybean Factsheets](#)
- [Iowa 4-Inch Soil Temperatures By County](#)
- [Calculate Corn Yield Loss Due to Uneven Emergence/Height](#)
- [Corn Nitrogen Rate Calculator](#)
- [Soybean Disease & Pest Management Field Guide](#)
- [Farmland Values Increase](#)
- [2008 Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey](#)

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