

**For what it's worth...**

Rains keep coming and that's keeping fieldwork from commencing. I think right now with how much soil moisture we have any additional rain will keep fieldwork idle for 2-3 days or much more if there happens to be more than 1 inch of rain at a given time. Patience is the key. Just another reminder that early planting does not out-weigh the importance of good seedbed conditions. With reports of quality seed in short supply, especially soybean, it will be important to plant into a good conditioned seedbed.

**Black Cutworm Moths on the Move!**

Over the weekend and late last week black cutworm moths were on the move. At a location I monitor near Carroll there were 22 moth captures between April 17 - 21. You may ask, why this is important when the corn is not even planted? It takes 300 base 50°F accumulated growing degree days to get from eggs to 4<sup>th</sup> instar black cutworms. It's the 4<sup>th</sup> instar that cuts the seedlings. The 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> instars feed on leaves. That's important because if moths are flying they are likely laying eggs in fields that seem attractive (i.e. suitable weed hosts present). With good weed control programs prior to planting, larvae will be looking for something to feed on about the time corn seedlings are emerging.

Remember that moth flights do NOT indicate the need for control but rather give us an indication tool of when to start scouting for black cutworm larvae which can ultimately cause economic damage. I would expect Marlin Rice and Rich Pope to release a article to the ICM News webpage (link to the right) when scouting dates have been calculated.

For the time being a good resources is from the Univ. of Illinois; <http://www.ipm.uiuc.edu/bulletin/article.php?id=892>.

**Conversion of Pasture, Hay or CRP**

I've seen several pastures and hay fields being converted to row crop the last few weeks. There are some considerations that should be factored into management before planting. I've said soybean because that makes the conversion to row crop much easier. There are several good publications to the right under "CRP Options for Converting to Row Crops."

- Soybean inoculants may be warranted since the nitrogen-fixing bacterium may have died out over the time the land was without legumes.
- Insect pressure will be higher; wireworms and white grubs will be at high populations but not harmful to soybeans which is why I prefer soybean in year 1 and not corn.
- Get a good burndown well in advance of planting; it helps with getting a good seedbed if the root matter is deadened allowing the seed furrow to close.
- Check and double check planter settings such as seed depth and down pressure; you are now planting into a low density, organic mater dense environment.
- Do a soil test for fertility and lime needs to ensure the right amount of what's needed.

Mark Licht  
Field Agronomist  
Iowa State University Extension  
1205 W. U.S. Hwy 30, Ste. G  
Carroll, IA 51401  
Tel: (712) 792-2364  
Fax: (712) 792-2366  
Email: [lichtma@iastate.edu](mailto:lichtma@iastate.edu)

Serving; Calhoun,  
Carroll, Crawford,  
Greene, Ida,  
Monona and  
Sac counties.

**Webpage's to View:**

- [CRP Options for Converting to Row Crops](#)
- [ICM News](#)
- [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](#)

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