

**Crop Progress and Notes**

Outside of weather delays and damage, the crops in west central Iowa are doing great. I have had the opportunity last week to participate in a couple disaster assessment meetings. From those I participated in, it was unlikely to get a 30% yield loss on any one crop for the county. Corn is mostly at blister to milk stage although some of the later planted is yet to tassel. Soybeans are mostly in pod set. This past week was a big week for questions on soybean aphids, bean leaf beetles and corn diseases.

**Grasshoppers**

This is for those that are seeing grasshopper doing extensive defoliation on the field edges. Grasshoppers are mostly concentrated along field edges but at times can cover a larger area in field centers. To my knowledge there are no thresholds for grasshoppers on corn or soybeans. Therefore, the threshold is one you set based on defoliation and past experience. For soybeans defoliation greater than 20%, in reproductive stages, is likely great enough to cause yield loss. The pod forming and filling stages are where soybeans are most susceptible. For corn, grasshoppers can clip silks, ear tips and extensively defoliate. Remember that grasshopper nymphs become adults and can cause additional leaf loss during August and September.

**Soybean Aphids**

Last week soybean aphids made a dramatic rise from less than 20 aphids per plant to over 250 aphids per plant (treatment threshold). The move this year was from the north. Calls that I received moved south as the week progressed. The first fields affected were those that did not have an insecticide seed treatment and did have a full, closed canopy. If you have not checked soybean fields yet you may find it beneficial. When it comes to spraying ground versus aerial you may want to consider the yield loss associated with ground application and application rate and coverage associated with aerial application.

**Western Bean Cutworms**

At this morning's Extension field agronomist teleconference, Marlin Rice, ISU Extension entomologist, gave a brief update on Western Bean Cutworm. He mentioned that his black light traps in Woodbury and Boone counties were well below previous years (seven moths for 2008). He also mentioned that over the weekend he was scouting fields in Woodbury, Monona and Crawford counties looking for egg masses he could harvest for some laboratory research. In that effort he found 1 egg mass in 1,500 plants and determined the trip to be unsuccessful.

**Corn Fungicides**

Planes are out spraying fungicides on corn. Yield responses will be a result of disease control and/or yield enhancement. Corn disease has been fairly light to date. Leaf disease of corn will cause the most yield damage when they are present at the ear leaf and above during grain fill. Alison Robertson, noted this morning, that conditions look good for southern corn rust, especially in southwest Iowa. She also mentioned that southern corn rust will produce spores in 3 to 6 days compared to 7 to 10 days for common rust or 14 to 21 days for gray leaf spot. This alone makes southern corn rust more problematic. For help in distinguishing common versus southern rust go to: [ls that Common or Southern Rust Showing Up in Iowa Fields](#).

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

**Web pages to View:**

- [Soybean Aphid Management Field Guide 2008](#)
- [Speed Scouting Soybean Aphids](#)
- [Soybean Aphid](#)
- [Field Extension Education Laboratory](#)
- [ICM News](#)
- [Sensitive Crops Directory](#)
- [Soybean Disease & Pest Management Field Guide](#)

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## **Ag Drainage Research Field Day Set for August 18th Near Gilmore City**

The Field Day is scheduled for Monday, August 18 at 5:00 PM, at the research site located NW of Gilmore City, Iowa to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of research and technology development at this site. The meeting is free and open to the public and will include sandwiches prepared by the Pocahontas County Cattlemen's Association.

Twenty years ago this Drainage Research site was established near Gilmore City to address concerns with agricultural drainage wells and now the site is serving the broader purposes related to all water quality issues of the tile drained landscapes. The program will include comments by Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey and Dr. Gerald Miller, Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University. The program will focus on impacts and findings from the past 20 years as well as current research.

Specific topics include discussions of how much nitrogen was lost due to 2008 rains, how much nitrogen is lost from fall versus spring fertilization, current crop production issues, and how might drainage systems of the future be designed and managed to meet crop production demands while meeting new water quality expectations. In addition, there will be a discussion of what has been learned from two years of monitoring in Pocahontas and Palo Alto county drainage districts.

The site is located 2 miles west of Gilmore City on Hwy 3, 1 mile north on 320th Avenue and then 1/2 mile west on 510th St. For more information, contact Matt Helmers at 515-294-6717 ([mhelmers@iastate.edu](mailto:mhelmers@iastate.edu)) or Nancy Jenson at 712-335-3103 ([njenson@iastate.edu](mailto:njenson@iastate.edu)).