

CROP CONNECTIONS

25 August 2008

Crop Progress and Notes

The season is now winding down into the last days. Many individuals are thinking towards harvest preparations... getting equipment tuned up and, hopefully, getting prepared for drying, handling and storage of the crop. That's right, I might not be as optimistic about the size of the crop as others, but I do expect harvest this year will not be as routine as it was in recent years. I foresee some challenges with trying to dry a crop which will undoubtedly come out of the field faster than it did the last time a large number of acres needed drying. Please keep that in mind as you make harvest plans.

I don't have much to remark about the status of the crops. It appears like soybean aphids are becoming less of a problem either because of declining aphid numbers or stage of the soybeans. Bean leaf beetles are out there but to date I have not heard of damaging numbers. Grasshoppers are chewing up field edges of both corn and soybeans. Foliar diseases are present in both corn and soybean fields, some of which are not routinely found such as *Phyllosticta* leaf spot, frog-eye and Goss's wilt.

Soybean Aphids

Soybean aphids may still be a concern for some. If soybeans have not reached the R5.5 growth stage you should still be scouting for soybean aphids. It may be a race to see which get there first. The R5.5 stage is between the R5 stage, when the seed is 1/8 inch long in the pod at one of four uppermost nodes on the main stem, and the R6 stage, when the pod contains a green seed that fills the pod cavity at one of the four uppermost nodes on the main stem. Remember that pre-harvest intervals on insecticides range from 18 to 45 days depending on the product.

Bean Leaf Beetles

Remember this pest can do damage to pods, particularly in the second generation as leaves begin to yellow and naturally senesce. This generation is emerging now. Thresholds at this time are 6 beetles per foot of row to justify treatment. As noted by Paul Kassel, ISUE field agronomist to the north, it only takes 3 beetles per foot of row to justify treatment based on \$12 per bushel soybeans and \$12 per acre treatment.

Fungicide Pre-Harvest Intervals

I think that most of the airplanes have stopped spraying but occasionally I hear one fly by. This might be a good time to mention the pre-harvest intervals for fungicides. Most products have a pre-harvest interval restricted by days before harvest but a few have restrictions based on growth stage. A good summary of these pre-harvest intervals can be found in a recent ICM News article; [Pre-Harvest Restrictions for Fungicides](#).

Drying and Storing Grain

With the weather delays and lack of growing degree days this year it may be the year to think about drying corn and how to properly store corn that has come out of the fields wetter than we have seen in recent years. With only a week left in August now is the time to think about drying and storing grain this fall. What plans have you made? Do you expect dryers to keep up with the combine? The University of Minnesota has several good references to help address drying and storing grain. This information can be found at [Agriculture: Grain Drying, Handling and Storage](#).

ICM News

Don't forget about the [ICM News](#) website. There are some very informative and recent articles related to plant diseases. This is the time of year when these problems show up. Also, expect more to be coming to prepare for potential problems that arrive late in the growing season.

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

Web pages to View:

- [Grain Drying, Handling and Storage](#)
- [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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