

Extension Crop Update

This newsletter, and previous issues from recent years, can be found on-line at:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/plymouth/info/cropupdate.htm>

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*Serving Cherokee,
Lyon, O'Brien,
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Sioux and Woodbury
Counties in NW Iowa.*

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Now, for some Sun & Warmth! In my last newsletter I was hoping for some rain. We got it, and I believe that right now we have almost ideal moisture conditions for NW Iowa. However, since May 1 we are about 6 days behind in GDU's. That isn't a big problem, but we really could use some sun and warmth. Overall, things are really pretty good here – I guess I just like perfection! If this were after pollination for corn, I'd be hoping for lower than average temperatures – they usually bring the best corn crops. At this time of year I like average temperatures or even a little above as long as we have adequate moisture.

Weed competition in our crops looks to be the biggest problem for us at this time. A good pre-emergent herbicide might have really paid off for some fields – at times I can't find the soybeans for the weeds! It's tough to balance weather conditions against getting weeds killed, but I still feel that some of this heavy early season competition is costing us yield.

Every year I get to walk fields that have injury because the spray tank was not cleaned out very well. Here's an ICM News article that reviews the basics – review it, and reduce your risk: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0615schaefer.htm>.

Enjoy Iowa this June – it IS a beautiful time of year!

Common Stalk Borers – These pests are close to the size when they will start moving to corn – although previous calculations are probably a little premature because of cooler weather since they were estimated. An ICM News article will likely be coming out soon with updated predictions, but June 20 is pretty close to the suspected 10% movement date, I think. For other details of this pest, see an ICM News article from June 2: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/060209hodgsonpope.htm>.

NW Research Farm Field Day June 30: Mark Tuesday, June 30 on your calendar for the NW Research Farm Field Day at the farm near Calumet in O'Brien County. Speakers include Elwynn Taylor, widely known ISU Extension Climatologist, discussing "Cropping Season Weather Considerations for 2009;" Roger Elmore, ISU Extension Corn Production Specialist, addressing "Recent Corn Planting Population Research Results;" Alison Robertson, ISU Extension Plant Pathologist discussing multiple years of corn and soybean fungicide research results; and Matt Darr, an Agricultural Engineer relatively new to ISU presenting "Practical Considerations for GPS Technology." As an addition to the typical morning program format, Darr will present an afternoon session beginning at 1:00 pm where field demonstrations of the accuracy of different GPS signals will be shown, and a discussion led about how to make the new DOT RTK network work for you. Ag Partners from Calumet will also be demonstrating a tractor set up with

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GPS from their operation.

Field day activities get underway with registration and coffee at 9 a.m. with the program beginning at 9:30 a.m. Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) credits will be offered. The main program will conclude at noon, and the optional afternoon session should be completed by about 2:30. A noon lunch will be available at the site - for about \$6. If participants choose to not eat at the field day, attendance is free! In case of rain, the event will be held at the American Legion Hall in Sutherland.

The farm is located 1/4 mile east of Highway 59 on B-62, approximately two miles south of Calumet.

Scout Now for Potato Leafhoppers in Alfalfa – These critters don't overwinter here, but as we move past the first cutting of alfalfa this pest can start showing up here in NW Iowa. Erin Hodgson, the new ISU Extension Entomologist, recently wrote an excellent article on leafhopper management for ICM News: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0615hodgson.htm>. If you raise alfalfa, this is a must-read for managing this pest. By the way – if you start seeing a lot of “hopper burn,” you've missed the best part of the treatment window!

An Early Soybean Rust Update. Soybean rust has been acting a little different in the south so far this year. Not a lot of activity has been found, but a couple of items will deserve watching! According to Daren Mueller in a recent ICM News Article, “First, soybean rust has been reported on soybean in sentinel plots in Alabama and Louisiana. Both reports are several weeks ahead of previous first finds on soybean in each state. Second, unlike the past few years, there has been ample rain for soybean rust to increase inoculum (spores). Many of the plant pathologists in these southern states anticipate soybean rust to show up in new places because of these ideal weather conditions.”

It is still too early to tell if that means anything of significance for Iowa, but it has attracted our attention. We will monitor what happens, and I will let you know if the risk escalates! See the entire article here:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0612mueller.htm>.

Mark your Calendar:

*July 22, 2009 - **Upper Midwest Manure Handlers Expo** near Boone (at the site where the Farm Progress Show was held last year). Featuring dry and liquid applicator demonstrations, biosecurity, safety, spill management, other concurrent learning opportunities, and an array of other activities! See their website for details: http://www.ag.iastate.edu/wastemgmt/expo_home.htm

We have already found some sponsors to help cover some of the cost of a bus going down to the Expo – expected to leave from Sioux Center and LeMars that morning. Thanks to Roda and the Hull Co-op for helping us out on this. Other sponsors for the bus would be very welcome! Let me know if your company/organization is interested in sponsorship.

For those who want to ride the bus, a very limited fee will be charged to cover remaining expenses. If you might be interested in riding a bus to this event, let me know – I will be starting a list on a “first-come, first-served” basis. Drop me an e-mail!

"Thanks for Subscribing!"