

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,
Osceola, Plymouth,
Sioux and Woodbury
Counties in NW Iowa.*

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Aphid Update – Reports of fields over the threshold continue to come in. I have also heard of some retreatment, and also fields where the numbers have dropped rapidly – to below threshold levels. In addition, there remain fields out there that have never reached treatment threshold. That is why I always encourage you to scout each field – because they can all be different! Another note – this time of year aphids tend to be smaller and whitish in color. They might not reproduce as rapidly, and feed as aggressively, but they can still cause damage. Don't assume they are harmless, look carefully and assess all aphids present. If you are like me, take your reading glasses and a hand lens with you!

When do you stop treating fields where the population is over the threshold of 250 on 80% of the plants, or above the threshold found in the "Speed Scouting" method? When soybeans reach the R-6 stage of growth (R-6 has a pod containing a green seed that fills the pod cavity at one of the four uppermost nodes on the main stem with a fully developed trifoliate leaf node) is usually when data indicates it is no longer profitable to treat high infestation levels. Also, when selecting which product to use, *pay attention to "Harvest Intervals"* listed on the label. Some products have up to 45 day harvest intervals, some much less. We need to be considering that right now!

See ISU Extension's new publications on soybean aphids, one on "Speed Scouting," which can be read on the Iowa Soybean Association web page: <http://www.iasoybeans.com/checkoff/publications/aphidcard/aphidcard.pdf>, and the other, much more in-depth publication, titled "Aphid Management Field Guide 2008," is downloadable from here: <http://www.iasoybeans.com/checkoff/publications/aphidguide.html>.

Buying and Selling Manure Meetings Set – During these volatile price times, we continue to have lots of requests for information on utilizing manure as a fertilizer source. So, to help fulfill this need for information, ISU Extension in NW Iowa will be holding some programs to address concerns of both buyers and sellers of manure. Topics will include determining what nutrients a crop needs and what in manure is available for the crop, requirements of a DNR manure plan, compaction and calibration, and valuing the manure and agreements. NW Iowa locations will be Tuesday, August 26, 9:00 a.m. at the WIT Building in Cherokee, and at 1:30 pm that same day at the Northwest Iowa Community College just east of Sheldon. There is a registration fee of \$25 for the program, or \$35 at the door. For details, contact Kris Kohl in the Buena Vista Extension Office, 824 Flindt Dr, PO Box 820, Storm Lake, 50599. His phone number is 712-732-5056, or e-mail him at kkohl1@iastate.edu.

Extension Crop Update, continued

Check Out the ISU Integrated Crop News site! Recent articles have featured several items on plant diseases. This is the time of year when these problems show up. Read some of the articles to prepare for potential problems that arrive late in the growing season here at the ICM News web site:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/>.

Stored Grain –Get Prepared! It looks like the NW corner of Iowa will have quite a bit of grain to store this fall. The value of this commodity is higher than ever before, so the risk of losing value when not properly stored is even higher this year. I think this might be a good time to review grain storage information and prepare for the time when the grain gets put into that storage. The University of Minnesota has a web page with a lot of good reference materials to help you better understand the principles of grain storage, properly handling grain in different types of storage and with different drying systems, managing stored grain insects, and a lot of other topics. Go here: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/topics.html?topic=4&subtopic=44#websites> and read the articles of most benefit to you.