

Crop Happenings

May 1, 2008
Issue 1



Prepared by
John Holmes,
Extension Field
Agronomist

*Serving Boone,
Hamilton, Hardin,
Humboldt, Marshall,
Story, Tama, Webster,
and Wright County*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.

Greetings. It's May 1st and time to start writing CROP HAPPENINGS Newsletter for another year. The newsletter is designed to supplement the ICM Newsletter and information from the ISU Extension specialists. The goal of CROP HAPPENINGS is to provide that local perspective on crop problems and to provide updates on crop related issues. It's important to note that this newsletter is part of the program of the ISU Extension office that sent this newsletter to you. Finally, all comments and observations are encouraged and welcome.

ICM Newsletter web based. The ICM Newsletter has now become the *Integrated Crop Management NEWS*. The newsletter is available at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/>. It is now possible to post articles as soon as they're written so the newsletter should be really current. There are also several excellent links to the ICM NEWS web page. (The ISU Field Agronomists' newsletters were among them.) Another link was the 4-inch soil temperatures.

Corn planting comments. IN a recent Iowa Farmer Today CropWatch Blog entry Dr. Roger Elmore wrote that the most important day in the life of a corn plant is the day that it's planted. He reminded us that if corn is planted in marginal conditions, we should expect marginal returns. (See: <http://www.iowafarmertoday.com/blog/>) In a recent ICM NEWS article Dr. Mark Hanna wrote "Don't Use More Pressure than Needed on Wet Soils" for ICM Crop NEWS. The title says it all!

Black cutworm update. Folks participating in the black cutworm monitoring program have reported moth catches during the past week. Using growing degree accumulation and moth captures it's possible to predict when to watch for BCW injury. Unfortunately BCW traps don't predict how severe the injury will be. Watch ICM NEWS for scouting dates.

What's In That Herbicide Package? ISU Extension's "2008 Herbicide Guide for Iowa Corn and Soybean production." is 15 pages long, has effectiveness rating charts, lists of what is in many of the herbicide package mixes, and descriptions of sites of action and injury symptoms. Find this useful tool here: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/WC94.pdf>. (Taken from "Crop Update Newsletter for NW Iowa" by Joel DeJong)

Prepared by John Holmes, Extension Field Agronomist
Phone (515) 532-3453, Email: jdholmes@iastate.edu