



July 20, 2009
Issue 7

Serving
Dallas, Jasper,
Madison,
Marion, Polk,
Poweshiek
and Warren
counties

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Across The Fence

Crop Disease Update: Eye Spot and Grey Leaf Spot (GLS) are showing up at low levels throughout central Iowa, and at somewhat higher levels in the southern and western part of the state. While development of Eye Spot favors the cool moist conditions we've been experiencing lately, GLS thrives in high humidity and temperatures above 70 that are more typical for this time of year. As with most leaf diseases, corn plants can tolerate some disease without much affect to yield. Treatment decisions should be considered when the disease spreads to the leaves at and above the ear. These are the leaves contributing most to the development of the grain. Highbred susceptibility, yield potential, cost of treatment, and value of grain should be considered when deciding whether or not to treat.

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0715robertson.htm>

Aphid Update: Aphid populations continue to be present in very low numbers (less than 5 per plant on 20 plants) in some locations in central Iowa. *This means that fields should be scouted first before applying a treatment.* While the temptation is there to add an insecticide to the tank when spraying for weeds, this may be a waste of money, and actually increase the potential for an aphid outbreak by killing the beneficial insects that are present. Treating for aphids before the population reaches economic threshold has not proven to be economical.

GDD: We again find ourselves in the valley of the growing degree roller coaster! We are approximately 144 GDD (about 5 days) shy from normal for this time of year in central Iowa. While this is beneficial for pollen shed and silking, these conditions are also slowing the development of the later planted corn and soybeans, increasing exposure to an early frost.

Mark your Calendars:

The **Upper Midwest Manure Handling Expo** is scheduled for **July 22** at the Central Iowa Expo site between Ames and Boone. The theme of the expo, "SET for Fall" will focus on safety, efficiency and technology. This expo will be a great opportunity to see many different kinds of liquid and dry manure application equipment. The expo will include educational sessions, exhibitors, and 19 field demonstrations as well as a spill response demonstration. There is no fee to attend the expo, however parking is \$5 per vehicle. A complete list of expo activities and maps can be accessed at:

http://www.ag.iastate.edu/wastemgmt/expo_home.htm

Ag Engineering and Agronomy Farm Field Day, Thursday August 27th 8:30 to noon at the Bruner Farm. Free admission and lunch provided.