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Issue 6

*Serving  
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Madison,  
Marion, Polk,  
Poweshiek  
and Warren  
counties*

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# Across The Fence

**Foliar Fungicide Applications to Corn:** Results from last year's university small plot trials and Iowa Soybean Association On-Farm Network strip trials showed an average 3-4 bu/acre advantage to fungicide applications. The yields ranged from a negative yield effect to 10+ bu/acre advantage due to the many environmental stresses contributing to uneven corn growth and development in 2008, much like the stresses we are experiencing this year. One factor that increased the potential for a positive yield response to fungicide application was that disease was present and it was affecting foliage above the ear leaf. While we can generally find diseases present on the lower leaves, yield begins to be affected when the pressure moves to the ear leaf and above. These are the leaves that contribute the most to the grain filling capacity of the plant. Therefore, scouting for the presence and location of a disease is important to verify the justification of a fungicide application. The link below gives more discussion on the effectiveness of fungicide application to corn:  
<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0706robertsonmueller.htm>

For help identifying corn diseases and making other management decisions, consider ordering the free ISU Extension pocket guides CSI 0002 **Scouting for Corn Diseases**, and CSI 001 **Corn Field Guide** CSI 001. These can be found at:  
<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/>

## Foliar Fertilizer for Stressed Crops:

There are many products available that make claims of relieving nutrient stress in corn and soybeans. Even if the investment is minimal and it's as easy as adding the product to your tank as you spray for weeds or insects, there are some things to consider before making this investment:

- Are you sure that particular nutrient is deficient in your crop?
- Can a few gallons applied to the leaves actually deliver the quantity of nutrients needed for an economic return?
- Are there substantial research data, rather than just testimonials, available to support the product's claims?

The best way to verify the effectiveness of a product is to have several untreated check strips that are clearly marked so yields can be measured and compared at harvest. Without sound evidence, you won't know the true value of the treatment.

For more information on the effectiveness of foliar fertilizers in corn and soybeans, see the following article:  
<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0630sawyer.htm>

**Soybean Aphid Update:** Aphids have been found in central Iowa. So, far, numbers are low, averaging around 5/plant, and not in every field. Scout fields at least once per week until found, then more often to monitor their numbers.

## FEEL Clinics and Manure Handling Expo in July:

<http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/calendar/>