

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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Soybean Aphid Update: I have had several interesting discussions about soybean aphids this week – decisions on treating now are getting tougher! Some fields are barely in the R-5 stage, while others already are very close to R-6. When do we stop scouting or treating? Our ISU Extension Entomologist, Dr. Erin Hodgson, suggested scouting until the R6 stage. R5 is described as having a seed 1/8" long in the pod at one of the top 4 nodes with a fully developed trifoliate leaf. Stage R6 is described as having a green seed that fills the pod cavity in one of the top 4 nodes.

Remember, the treatment (action) threshold is 250 aphids per plant. But also note that the economic injury level (number of aphids it takes to reduce yield enough to equal the cost of treatment) is a little over 650 per plant, according to research from several locations. I think that as we approach that R-6 stage of growth we need to keep both of those numbers in mind a little more!

To see more of a discussion on this topic, check out Erin's ICM News article titled "Are Late-season Soybean Aphid Treatments Worth It?" which can be found here: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0813hodgsononeal2.htm>.

Don't forget to watch harvest intervals!

Making Quality Corn Silage – Our Extension Forage Specialist, Steve Barnhart, recently wrote an article for the ICM News about making good silage. Here is a segment of his article: "Optimum silage moisture at harvest ranges from 55-60 percent for upright oxygen-limiting silos; 60-65 percent for upright stave silos; 60-70 percent for bags; and 65-70 percent for bunkers. Due to variability among hybrids and growing conditions, best management is to collect a representative chopped sample and check whole-plant moisture content using a commercial forage testing laboratory, forage moisture tester, or microwave oven rather than simply estimating it from the kernel milkline. Instead, kernel milkline should be an indicator of when to collect the first silage samples for moisture testing.

A general guideline is to begin moisture testing when the milkline is about one-fourth of the way down the kernel from the dent end for horizontal silos, and about 40 percent of the way down the kernel for vertical silos. Then, under normal crop development conditions, assume a constant dry-down rate of about 0.6 percent per day, and measure moisture again prior to harvest." More tips are in the rest of his article, found here: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0817barnhart.htm>.

Want to do more reading on silage topics? Check out Wisconsin's Corn Silage web site: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/crops/uwforage/Silage.htm>.

Extension Crop Update, continued

Join Us on Aug. 27 - The Iowa Learning Farm will host a field day at the Nate Ronsiek farm, 1871 480th Street, Hawarden, on Thursday, August 27, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Nate is a cooperator with the Iowa Learning Farm (ILF) and will offer information about his demonstration site and tell of his experiences in adopting no-till. I will discuss root health and growth in a no-till system using a soil pit as a visual aid. And Sioux County NRCS District Conservationist Greg Marek will talk about cost-share incentives for trying and adopting no-till.

The field day includes a complimentary evening meal served by the Sioux County Cattlemen and sponsored by Farmers Elevator Company and Farm Credit Services of America. The event is free and the public is invited to attend, but an RSVP is recommended. Please call the Sioux County ISU Extension office to register for this event, 712/737-4230.

Agribusiness Education Program Opportunities near Ames – The Agribusiness Ed program site (FEEL Lab) near Ames still has a few upcoming educational opportunities in September, if you need CCA credits or are just interested in the topics. September 2 will be the “Alfalfa Production Clinic” day. The “Corn Disease and Diagnostic Clinic” date is scheduled for September 3. On September 15 a “Soil Management Clinic” is scheduled. Registration is now open for all of these sessions. To get details, check out this web site: <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/>

Also, many of you have previously attended the annual Integrated Crop Management Conference in Ames. Dates for this year are December 2 and 3.

"Thanks for Subscribing!"