

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,
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Counties in NW Iowa.*

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Yes, this weather stinks – but, I have yet to talk with anyone who knows how to change it. All we can do is get ready to roll when it changes, be prepared for the management challenges we will have this fall, and be as patient as possible. Grain storage will be a challenge for us this fall, and I am writing this edition to try and help prepare you for some of those difficult questions. I am certainly no expert on this topic, but I will try to get some information in front of you to help with these decisions.

I know time will be at a premium when this all gets started again, but don't forget to BE SAFE!

Drying soybeans (borrowed from Paul Kassel, my counterpart to the east): Soybeans can be dried – much like corn or other grains. Soybeans harvested at moisture content above 13% will represent some loss in grain value. Soybeans delivered at 14% moisture and assessed a 2% per point dock – is equal to losing 0.4 bu/a on 50.0 bushel per acre soybeans. That loss goes to 0.9 bu/a – if 14.0% soybeans are delivered at assessed a 3% dock. Therefore drying soybeans may be an option for some operations. Soybeans have about 25% more airflow than corn. Fans sized for corn will have greater airflow in soybeans – and will result in faster drying.

Limit drying temperature to 130 -140F for commercial soybeans and 100-110F for seed soybeans. Natural air drying should dry soybeans to about 13% moisture with 'normal' fall weather. Fans should be sized to deliver about 1.0 cfm per bushel of air flow. Aeration fans that deliver about 0.1 cfm/bushel will do very little drying of the soybeans.

Aerate soybeans that cannot be dried or delivered this fall. Soybeans – like other grains, should be aerated to at least 35F for long term storage.

Bill Wilcke, Vance Morey and Ken Hellevang, from the U of Minnesota and North Dakota State U have a good article on managing and drying soybeans here: <http://www.soybeans.umn.edu/crop/harvest/index.htm>. They include some excellent thoughts about issues that cannot be included in such a short article as printed here. If drying beans, READ IT!

Corn Drying and Storage - Moisture content in corn grain remains high in the NW corner of Iowa, and test weight reports are not great so far. Corn filled slowly in a cool summer, and when it froze a week ago and stopped progress I know a lot of fields were not yet at maturity. This means that corn quality is likely lower, which makes drying, handling and storing this crop a much bigger challenge than normal.

ISU Extension specialists recently published a set of articles in "Integrated Crop News" that I think are very good reading before we get back to handling this corn crop. This article:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/1015hurburghelmore.htm>,

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discusses test weight expectations, shrink, and some storability issues. The second one in the series:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/1015hurburghelmore02.htm>, discusses some storage management issues you need to be aware of. The third discusses grain molds, which might be an issue for some: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/1015robertsonelmorehurburgh.htm>.

Do your homework before you put yourself in a corner handling this crop!

Registration Now Open for ICM Conference in Ames, Dec 2 & 3 – Educational sessions on a wide array of agronomy topics, featuring presentations from specialists at 4 other Midwestern state universities, are available at this year's Integrated Crop Management Conference. This popular conference annually attracts a capacity crowd of nearly 1000 agronomists and crop producers each winter. Attendees can obtain up to 14 Certified Crop Adviser credits as well as Commercial Pesticide Applicator recertification in categories 1A (weeds), 1B (insects), 1C (crop diseases), 4 (seed treatment) and 10 (research and demonstration.)

To register online for this event or for more information, visit the ISU Agribusiness Education Program website at www.aep.iastate.edu.

"Thanks for Subscribing!"