

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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Counties in NW Iowa.*

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Check out the NW On-Farm Research Results from 2008! One of the projects I am active with is an on-farm research project with 18 NW Iowa cooperators who conducted 38 field length, replicated crop management comparisons. Projects included corn and soybean fungicide trials, corn and soybean planting population comparisons, planting date studies, rootworm trials, tillage comparisons, and more! Check out the results from 2008, along with the previous two years data, at our web site: <http://ofr.ag.iastate.edu/>.

Hold March 16 for a NW Iowa No-till/Strip-Till Conference:

For the fourth consecutive year we will be holding a NW Iowa no-till conference – but will add more strip-till in the mix for this year. We will actually be doing two meetings on the same day. We will start at 9 am at the Moville Community Center, and conclude by noon. The same basic program will start again at 1 pm at the Demco Center in Boyden, and conclude at 4 pm. The keynote speaker will be ISU Soybean Specialist Palle Pedersen with his comments on no-till soybean management, along with reviewing no-till research he has done the past two years at several Iowa sites. We also plan to have someone available to discuss Carbon Credits, and are planning round-table discussion opportunities led by several producers who have experience making these tillage systems work. Hold these dates for now – I will try to get another issue with details out before the date!

DNR Hearing on Proposed “Manure Application to Frozen Ground” Rules set for March 23

– The DNR has proposed rules for limiting manure application to frozen or snow-covered ground, limiting to certain conditions before Feb. 1, and banning application to frozen or snow-covered ground from Feb. 1 to April 15. These rules are being proposed for the future, but are not in effect at this time. To see the rules, go to this link: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/afo/files/agenda5.pdf>. The DNR will be holding a hearing on these proposed rules at several Iowa sites in March, the closest scheduled for the March 23, 2009, 6:00 p.m., at the Orange City-City Hall, 125 Central Avenue SE. If you apply manure in the winter I would encourage you to become familiar with these proposed rules, and take advantage of the opportunity to outline specific concerns you might have for these proposed rules at the public hearings. ALSO, don't forget the best site available for all your manure management questions – the Iowa Manure Management Action Group website (IMMAG), found here: <http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/>.

Info on the New Farm Program: I keep getting questions about the new farm program – but I am just an agronomist, not a farm management specialist. However, I do know that ISU has some resources available on-line

Extension Crop Update, continued

that might help answer some of your questions. The Ag Decision Maker page at ISU titled “2008 Farm Bill Information” has articles on the program, some worksheets to help figure out the details, and links to the 2008 Farm Bill Webcast that can be viewed online. See this page here:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/info/farmbill.html>.

Attend the NW Research Farm Annual Meeting & Program Feb. 24 - The NW Research Farm Annual Meeting program will be held at the Experimental Farm near Calumet in O'Brien County on Tuesday, Feb 24, 2009, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Speakers featured include ISU Agricultural Economist Chad Hart discussing “Grain Marketing for 2009,” along with some discussion about the new farm program; Joel DeJong, NW Iowa Extension Field Agronomist, and Josh Sievers, project manager, discussing "The NW Iowa On-Farm Research Project Results from 2006 -08;" and Ryan Rusk, NW Research Farm Superintendent with Paul Kassel, NW Iowa Extension Field Agronomist, discussing “Recent Research Results for the NW Research Farm.” Members of the NW Research Farm Association are encouraged to attend, but non-members are welcome to attend this free program, also. The board of the NW Research Farm will hold their annual business meeting beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Donna's Cafe in Calumet. Interested persons will be welcome at this meeting, too. The Northwest Iowa Experimental Farm is located about 1/4 mile east of Highway 59, about 2 miles south of Calumet in O'Brien County.

Extension Crop Clinics in LeMars, Cherokee, Sibley and Rock Rapids – Extension Crop Clinics are scheduled for March 5 in LeMars and Cherokee, and March 6 in Rock Rapids and Sibley. Starting times are 10 am at all sites, and will conclude at about 2:30 p.m. Sponsors of these meetings will be supplying free noon meals, but registering at the appropriate Extension office is needed. The keynote speaker is Greg Tylka, ISU Soybean Pathologist who specializes in nematodes. Also appearing will be NW Iowa Farm Management Specialist Ron Hook discussing “Risk Management and the '08 Farm Bill,” and I will discuss crop issues of concern for 2009. Check with those Extension offices for details!

"Thanks for Subscribing!"