

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>

March 10, 2009

Volume 12, Issue #2



Prepared by

Joel DeJong,

Extension Field Agronomist

Plymouth County Extension
24 1st St. NW
LeMars, IA 51031
Phone: (712) 546-7835 e-mail:
jldejong@iastate.edu

*Serving Cherokee,
Lyon, O'Brien,
Osceola, Plymouth,
Sioux and Woodbury
Counties in NW Iowa.*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.

2008 – It was a very good year (for crop production in NW Iowa!) The National Agricultural Statistics Service recently released their 2008 county corn and soybean estimates. Iowa's average corn yield was the same as it was in 2007 – 171 bushels/acre. NW Iowa led the pack this year, averaging 184 bu/a. In the 7 NW Iowa counties I serve, yields for corn were: Cherokee, a state-leading 196; Lyon at 190; O'Brien reported 195; Osceola county, where they battled excess water more frequently – 175; Plymouth at 191, Sioux with 195 (I thought they might be a little better than that!); and Woodbury County's average was reported at 185. The state bean average dropped from 52 bu/acre in 2007 to 46 in 2008. Here are the 7 county estimated soybean yields: Cherokee at 54.5; Lyon 50.0; O'Brien 53.0; Osceola 47.5; Plymouth 51.0; Sioux 54.0; and Woodbury 45.0. All except for Plymouth reported slightly lower yields than in 2007.

To see crop, livestock and other Iowa agricultural statistics from NASS, go to this web page: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Iowa/index.asp. I use it a lot!

March 16 set for NW Iowa No-till/Strip-Till Conferences: 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 Merville 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. Another short presentation will be given on Carbon Credits, and we will be holding roundtable discussion opportunities led by several producers who have experience making these tillage systems work. To see the brochure for this FREE event, click here: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/plymouth/news/notill.htm>.

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. 15, and banning application to frozen or snow-covered ground from Feb. 15 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>. For a fact sheet that I think does a really good job explaining the proposed rules, go here: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/afo/files/manurefs.pdf>.

Extension Crop Update, continued

The DNR will be holding a hearing on these proposed rules at several Iowa sites in March, the closest scheduled for 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. A quick summary – if you apply manure from a site that needs a manure management plant (CAFO), these rules will apply to you! More details from this and other manure issues can always be found on the IMMAG web page: <http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/>.

ISU Information on ACRE, and other farm program changes: The Ag Decision Maker page at ISU titled “2008 Farm Bill Information” has articles on this 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>. It is an excellent reference piece!

NW On-Farm Research Results from 2008 on the WEB! Thanks to the cooperation of several NW Iowa farmers, several field-length, replicated crop production trials have been carried out in NW Iowa the past few years. 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/>.

"Thanks for Subscribing!"