

Crop Happenings

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Issue 3



Prepared by
John Holmes,
Extension Field
Agronomist

*Serving Boone,
Hamilton, Hardin,
Humboldt, Marshall,
Story, Tama, Webster,
and Wright County*

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Field work update. Most farmers “didn’t turn a wheel” last week. Some may have been able to get in over the weekend. Expect to see lots of field work this week. Farmers are finishing corn planting and will start planting soybeans immediately. Hopefully corn will be emerging this week – especially if the warm weather continues.

Alfalfa winter kill. Several alfalfa fields are showing areas of winterkill. One farmer pointed out that areas on hills that had little or no snow cover had serious injury. Stands seeded in 2008 seemed to have little or no injury; older stands were severely injured. See “[Alfalfa Winter Injury – Next Time](#)” in ICM NEWS for more information. “[Evaluating Hay and Pasture Stands for Winter Injury](#)” (Pm 1362) provides guidance on evaluating stands and provides suggestions on when to keep a stand or re-seed it.

Soil may have settled. During our teleconference this morning Kyle Jensen, Extension field agronomist from SW Iowa, noted that he looked at a corn field over the weekend where soil had settled after receiving rain showers. He noted that the corn was planted at 1½ inches but now the seed was about an inch deep. This could trigger rootless corn if soil settling is considerable.

Black cutworm update. A significant flight of black cutworm moths occurred during April 28-30. Watch for the predicted cutting dates in *Integrated Crop Management NEWS* later this week or early next week. I generally add 30 days to the date of a significant flight and go look for damage. Incidentally a month from April 28th will be just after Memorial Day --- a weekend that commercial applicators often spend spraying for black cutworms.

Watch for corn seedling injury. Some of this corn has been in the ground a full three weeks. Watch these fields for early season injury such as leafing out underground or corkscrewing. Heat will be the best solution.

ISU Extension re-structuring. On April 30th Dr. Jack Payne, Vice President for ISU Extension, announced that ISU Extension will be re-organized. In his announcement he noted that ISU Extension is going from a geographically based organization to an issue based organization. To get the most complete picture I recommend you read the information provided at the ISU Extension web page at www.extension.iastate.edu.

Prepared by John Holmes, Extension Field Agronomist
Phone (515) 532-3453, Email: jdholmes@iastate.edu