

Crop Happenings

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Prepared by
John Holmes,
Extension Field
Agronomist

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

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Severe hail received. Devastating hail was received Sunday morning, August 9, along a corridor that started in Schleswig, ran to Otho (just south of Fort Dodge), and continued to south of Webster City. A second band started east of Jewell, continued to Eldora, and ended in Wellsburg. The total distance was roughly 170 miles. The width of the corridor varied from 1½ miles to 5 miles. Both corn and soybeans were totally destroyed by 2-inch hail. In many instances, corn was completely cut off near the ear leaf. In the worst fields, corn was beaten to the ground. Soybeans were totally defoliated and usually cut off by the hail. Corn fields bordering the most severe damage had leaves stripped and received bruising to ears and stalks. Soybean stems were severely bruised. See the [ISU Extension hail damage disaster recovery web site](#) for information about hailed crops.

Fungicides on hailed crops? Dr. Daren Mueller explains that the goal of any fungicide is to protect yield. Treating with a fungicide won't improve a yield that has already been reduced by hail injury. See "[Making Fungicide Decisions on Hail Damaged Crops](#)" for more information. Many folks have asked about the possibility of getting aflatoxin in hail injured corn. This toxin is caused by *aspergillus flavus*, a disease favored by temperatures above 80° and usually associated with drought. The best advice will be to monitor fields and watch for the olive-green mold on ears.

Corn eyespot. Many central Iowa farmers have been treating corn to control eyespot this past week. The hot weather should have slowed disease progress but not stopped it. Remember the ideal time to apply fungicides to corn is VT to R1. Corn is currently in the late blister (R2) or milk stage (R3). It's getting late to treat with a fungicide at this point.

Soybean aphid update. Aphid populations have been increasing this past week. Many farmers are treating. Remember the economic threshold is 250 aphids/plant uniformly across the field and increasing. The economic injury level is when the crop loss equals the cost of treatment. At today's prices the economic injury level is about 650 aphids/plant.

Corn aphids being found. Corn leaf aphid and bird cherry-oat aphid colonies were found on lower leaves in corn fields northwest of Fort Dodge. See [Getting to Know Aphids in Corn](#) for more information. Treatment is usually not warranted.

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