

## Crop Happenings

August 24, 2009  
Issue 12



Prepared by  
**John Holmes,**  
Extension Field  
Agronomist

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

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.

**Crop update.** Corn is in the dough to dent stage. Nitrogen deficiency can be seen on lower leaves in some fields. Corn aphids are being found in fields especially north of U.S. Highway 20. Soybeans are in stage R5-R6. Sudden death syndrome is being found in many fields. Many fields were treated for soybean aphids. Treating for aphids has really slowed because soybeans are reaching stage R5.5 and little economic response is expected.

**Sudden death syndrome (SDS).** SDS can now be seen in most area soybean fields. This disease is a soil borne fusarium fungus that infected plants early in the season. Poorly drained soils and soils with high soybean cyst nematode pressure typically have heavy SDS pressure. Infected leaves will show scattered yellow spots between the veins – often in the upper canopy. Eventually the tissue between veins turns brown while the veins remain green. Variety resistance is the best management option.

**White mold?** Extension field agronomists in southeastern Iowa are reporting heavy white mold pressure in soybean fields. I've not received any reports of white mold or seen any infested fields. Please let me know if you have.

**Aphids in corn.** Farmers are seeing a relatively new pest in corn: aphids feeding near the ear. These aphids are most likely corn leaf aphid or bird cherry-oat aphid. The English grain aphid is also in fields. This aphid is light green with dark cornicles, legs, and antennae. They look very similar to soybean aphid. ISU entomologists are not recommending treating for aphids in corn. See [Getting to Know Aphids in Corn](#) for more information.

**GDD article in ICM NEWS.** Currently the growing degree day (GDD) accumulation is about 230 units less than average. That would be roughly 10 days behind normal. An excellent article by Rich Pope and Dr. Elwynn Taylor discussing GDD accumulation in several seasons will be posted on [ICM News](#) late Monday afternoon. Watch for it.

**Fall field day near Ames.** The staff from the ISU Agronomy Farm will host a fall field day on Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at the ISU Bruner Farm. Registration and refreshments are available at 8:30 a.m.; the program runs from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Lunch will be provided. Topics include corn population & planting date research, soybean aphid management, native prairie biomass production, potassium management, and value added soybean opportunities. The ISU Bruner farm is located west of Ames. Turn south off from U.S. Highway 30 on “W” Avenue. Go 1 mile south on “W” and ½ east on 240<sup>th</sup> Street.

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

*Iowa State University Research and Demonstration Farm*

# Field Day

## August 27

### 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

#### Boone, Iowa

---

**Researchers will share the latest information on:**

- Crop season review
- Corn populations and planting date research
- Soybean aphid management
- Native prairie biomass production
- Potassium management with today's corn hybrids
- Value added soybean opportunities

**Research conducted by Iowa State University Extension and Iowa Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station.**

Enjoy refreshments at 8:30 a.m.; Lunch at conclusion of program.

**Directions:** The Bruner farm is located 1 mile south of U. S. Highway 30 on "W" Avenue, and ½ mile east on 240<sup>th</sup> Street.