

INSIDE GRUNDY COUNTY
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If you are planning to apply anhydrous ammonia this fall, keep the following information in mind. The key to maximizing benefits from fall application of anhydrous ammonia or manure with high ammonium nitrogen content is fifty degrees. Soil temperatures of fifty degrees or less and cooling are important to minimize nitrogen losses. You can monitor the soil temperature in Grundy County by going to the following website:

<http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/NPKnowledge/>. Plan your anhydrous ammonia application accordingly.

If you are interested in determining whether or not you have soybean cyst nematodes (SCN) in your fields, fall is a good time to take soil samples to find out. Greg Tylka, Professor of Plant Pathology with Iowa State University, in the October 9, 2006 edition of *Integrated Crop Management* made the following observations and recommendations: “The lack of symptoms and subsequent missed diagnosis are unfortunate because the key to effective management of SCN is early detection, before large nematode population densities develop. Current management strategies (growing resistant soybean varieties and nonhost corn) are very effective at keeping SCN population densities from increasing but will not decrease population densities rapidly. It is relatively easy to keep low SCN population densities low, but very difficult to drive high SCN population densities back down”.

“SCN can be detected in soil samples, and fall is an ideal time to check fields for this pest. Soil samples can be collected any time throughout the fall until a significant snowfall or a hard freeze occurs. Following are some guidelines for sampling fields for SCN: Ideally, fields should be sampled using a soil probe; soil cores should be collected to a total depth of 6 to 8 inches; collect soil cores from 15 to 20 places in a zigzag pattern in a sampling area; collect a separate set of soil cores for each 20 acres or so; combine and mix soil cores, and fill a sample bag with one cup or more of soil; label the outside of each sample bag with a permanent marker”.

“For fall sampling, it is most logical to sample corn fields in which soybean will be grown in 2007. But it also makes sense to sample fields in which soybean was grown in 2006 if unusual plant growth was observed during the season or if unexplained low yields were obtained. Also, note that one set of soil cores can be collected for both soil fertility and SCN testing”.

If you are interested in estimating harvest losses in corn in order to adjust your combine to reduce machine losses, call the extension office and request publication PM-574 “Profitable Corn Harvesting”.

For more information, contact the Iowa State University Extension office of Grundy County at 319-824-6979. Have a safe harvest!