



CHARLIE BAIER, Iowa State University Howard County Extension Education Director

FOR THE WEEK OF July 4, 2005

Barn Prizes-2005 Howard County Fair

Barn prizes are awarded every year to 4-H clubs who keeps their respective barns the neatest during fair week. There is an anonymous judge who visits the barns daily and then helps decide upon the awards.

This year 4-H club winners were:

Horse - Afton Aces

Poultry - Howard Center Stars

Swine - Space Age Farmers

Rabbit - Saratoga 4-H

Dairy - Crestwood FFA

Sheep: Shooting Clovers

Beef -Saratoga 4-H

Overall winner was the Crestwood FFA . The overall winner has their clubs name engraved on a plaque that hangs in the display case at the EXPO building. Sponsor of the awards to the clubs is as follows:

Beef-Walt Gablemann of Riceville

Dairy- Don and Lucy Burr

Sheep-Cresco Union Savings Bank

Swine-Fortress Bank

Rabbit-J&L Grain Roasting of Riceville

Horse- Georges Radio & TV of Schley

Poultry- Dwayne and Lynette Anderson

Tree Walk

On July 11th at 7 PM Bob Hauer, Northeast Iowa Consumer Horticulture Assistant will lead the walk and talk about choosing the right tree for the site, proper planting techniques, pruning young trees and common insect & disease problems. A tree is an investment that needs to be managed. Find out how to care for your trees so they are an asset, not a liability. There will be a fee of \$3 per person. You can sign up for this program by calling the Howard Co. Extension office at 563-547-3001.

Soybean Aphid

This was the 5th week of scouting for Brian Lang at our research plot near Decorah. The activity is now increasing, and appears to be the strongest in Allamakee and Winneshiek Counties (far northeast Iowa). The research plot is still below threshold (average of 250 aphids per plant and increasing). A couple of fields in northeast Iowa have spots within fields that are near threshold and will be treated soon. But overall, the aphids are still well below threshold levels.

We continue to see very low levels in all fields outside of northeast Iowa. However, I found a larger number of the "winged" soybean aphids this week. This could mean more dispersal of the aphid within fields, to neighboring fields, and to other regions (i.e. eventually moving beyond northeast Iowa).

It is very possible that this pest could cause spotty problems in fields. Brian saw this in some fields in 2001. Scouting for this pest should begin in early July, and you should concentrate on looking at the newest leaf development of the plant first. For supporting information on soybean aphids go to:
www.soybeanaphid.info