

## CROP NOTES

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A Periodic Newsletter for Ag Professionals and Select Extension Staff prepared by George Cummins, ISU Extension field Agronomist serving Black Hawk, Bremer, Butler, Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Franklin, Grundy, Hancock, Mitchell, Winnebago and Worth Counties.

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Date: 11/04/09

### **Administrative Items:**

Please add this extension program to your calendars and share them with others who would find them of interest.

**November 10<sup>th</sup> Iowa/ Minnesota Drainage Research Forum** – Scheman Building, ISU, Ames. For further program and registration information go to [www.aep.iastate.edu/drf](http://www.aep.iastate.edu/drf).

**November 24<sup>th</sup> Ag Chemical Dealers Update** – Tama Hall, Hawkeye Community College Waterloo. 12:30 PM registration with program from 1 – 5 PM. Topics include weed and insect management, crop diseases, N management and commercial pesticide applicator re-certification topics. Additional program details and registration information is available at [www.aep.iastate.edu/acu](http://www.aep.iastate.edu/acu).

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> ICM Conference** – Ames. Program and registration information is now available at [www.aep.iastate.edu](http://www.aep.iastate.edu). Registration fees are \$185 before November 20<sup>th</sup> and \$235 after November 20<sup>th</sup>. In recent years conference registrations have closed because of facilities limitations so early registration is encouraged.

**December 8<sup>th</sup> Ag Chemical Dealers Update** – 4-H Center, N. Iowa Fairgrounds, Mason City 9:30 AM registration with program from 10 – 2:30 PM. Topics include weed and insect management, crop diseases, N management and commercial pesticide applicator re-certification topics. Additional program details and registration information is available at [www.aep.iastate.edu/acu](http://www.aep.iastate.edu/acu).

**December 11<sup>th</sup> Worth/ Cerro Gordo Crop Clinics** at Northwood and Clear Lake. Contact the respective County Extension Offices for details and registration information.

**December 17<sup>th</sup> Floyd/ Chickasaw County Crop Clinic**, Raleigh Hills Country Club, Ionia. See attached brochure for details and registration information.

**January 13<sup>th</sup> Crop Advantage Program** – NIACC Campus, Mason City. See [www.aep.iastate.edu](http://www.aep.iastate.edu) for details and registration information.

**January 27<sup>th</sup> Crop Advantage Program** – Tama Hall, Hawkeye CC Campus, Waterloo. See [www.aep.iastate.edu](http://www.aep.iastate.edu) for details and registration information.

### **Agronomic Information :**

1. It is November and weather conditions continue to delay crop harvest and normal fall field operations. We continue to receive numerous calls on issues related to harvesting,

drying, storing and marketing soybeans and corn. In recent days we have received a number of calls on moldy corn. In his recent Crop Notes, Brian Lang listed a number of references which address many of these questions including sample submission information for corn ear mold ID and mycotoxin analysis. An edited version of those Crop Notes is attached. Pm 1698 “Corn Ear Rots, Storage Molds, Mycotoxins and Animal Health” contains excellent photos of various molds and a discussion of the sources of various mycotoxins, symptoms and detrimental effects by species and allowable limits. This reference is available at your County Extension Office or can be ordered on line from ISU Extension Publications at [www.extension.iastate.edu/store/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/).

2. Cladosporium, a dark green or black mold, has been found on a number of grain samples from this part of the state, especially on immature and/ or high moisture corn ears. It is typically superficial and rubs/ blows off with normal combining, handling and drying operations.. Cold temperatures will slow Cladosporium growth. It rarely produces mycotoxins but tends to mask other molds in a sample which do. A positive ID of the molds present (ISU Plant Disease Clinic) and an analysis for the presence and levels of mycotoxins are the only way to know for sure. If mycotoxins are present or suspected, we encourage livestock producers to involve their local veterinarian in feeding decisions. There is an excellent article on Cladosporium by Alison Robertson in a recent ICM Newsletter available on line at [www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/).

3. Leaving soybeans in the field over winter should be avoided. Producers are resigned that their beans still in the field need to be harvested before snow accumulation irregardless of moisture and are scrambling to organize suitable drying and/or storage for their soybeans. There are a number of references in Brian’s newsletter, the ICM Newsletter and crop newsletters from neighboring land grant universities (Nebraska, Minnesota and Wisconsin) with useful information on drying soybeans.

4. Rate of corn harvest is being slowed by dryer capacity. Last winter there was some corn that did not get harvested until January and February. Most reported that they were pleased how it turned out and felt that they had dodged a “bullet”. The corn was mature and in good condition going into the winter. It stood well and came out of the field at or near market moistures. Overwintering conditions vary from year to year. Attached is a Wisconsin publication on “Weigh Risk of Leaving Corn Stand Through Winter”. It documents monthly yield loss at Arlington, WI for 2 years. Losses in 2000 were considerably greater than those in 2001. If the weather does not cooperate, some farmers may not have another option but to leave some corn standing in the field overwinter. Fields should be scouted to determine which hybrids have the best chance to get thru the winter with minimal loss.

5. The Wisconsin piece also raises the issue of Crop Insurance. Policies vary on what is covered (revenue, yield and grade, etc) and procedures and deadlines for filing claims. Check with your insurer and with your county FSA Office for specifics.

6. Another concern raised is meeting delivery contract specifics and penalties for non-compliance. Communication with your contractor is the first step.

7. Stress levels in the rural community are high and increasing with job layoffs and downsizing, unprofitable dairy and livestock production and a difficult cropping season which will not be finished for a few weeks or months. ISU Extension has assistance available for technical ag, financial, emotional and legal issues. Contact the Iowa Concern Hotline 1-800-447-1985 or your County Extension Office for assistance. Please share this with others who can benefit from these services.

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