

SW Iowa Crop Update, Oct. 8, 2008

Soybean Harvest Update

Over the past week we have harvested quite a few Soybean Cyst Nematode (SCN) plots throughout SW Iowa. Many different varieties that have some form of SCN resistance or nonresistance are in these plots. It was thought years ago that a soybean variety that had SCN resistance had some “yield drag” associated with it. Studies have shown this to not be true, and today more of the breeding is being done with beans with resistance in them. Most producers are buying beans and getting SCN resistance and don’t even know it. In the SCN plots that I am involved with through Corn and Soybean Initiative (CSI) partners, both susceptible and resistant varieties are planted. SCN samples are taken in the early spring to find what initial SCN population is. The area where each bean variety was grown is then sampled in the fall to determine what the fall SCN population is. It was very consistent last year, where SCN beans were planted, it held SCN reproduction down, suppressing SCN populations. I have sampled a few of these plots as they are harvested this fall. Now would be a great time to pull soil samples and also test for SCN populations. Here are a few links:

<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/2007/11-12/scnsample.html>

<http://cropwatch.unl.edu/>

The SCN plots are showing something very consistent this year, longer season beans yielding better than the shorter season beans. The SW area for the most part did not see much precipitation in late July and August. The group III and late group II soybeans were not physiologically mature when we did start to receive some moisture and seemed to have taken advantage of this. Early group II soybeans are the earliest maturing beans that we had in these plots, they were yielding in the lower 30’s on average. Mid group III beans yielded very well and were in the 50-60 bushel range most of the time. I’m sure later this year we will see more publications coming from other soybean plots that will support this trend.

Soybeans that are still green, harvest for grain or forage?

A few in the area have some very young (physiologically) soybeans that are out there and have yet to reach R5. A few producers are wondering what they should do with these soybeans, wait and hope the frost doesn’t kill them or harvest the forage? Steve Barnhart has put together a good reference for making this decision. One thing is needed to make this work, knowing what stage your soybean plant is in.

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2008/1006barnhartpedersen.htm>



The soybean on the left is in the R5 stage while the soybean on the right is in the R6 stage.

Corn

There has been a few acres of corn harvested, but there is a long ways to go yet. I still am receiving quite a few calls a week about corn not drying down as fast as expected. Grain moisture is testing in the low 20's to high teens for the majority of calls received. In October they say that corn will normally dry .5-.75% per day. I'm not sure if the cooler than normal temps have slowed this, but it sure does seem like we are not drying that fast.

With the slow dry-down we are always concerned about making sure that the corn will stand long enough to ensure that we harvest the maximum that we can. Remember when we have one ear on the ground or that misses the combine head in 125' that is equivalent to about 1 bushel loss. Alison Robertson has written an excellent article about scouting for this on the ISU Crop Management News website:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2008/0926robertson.htm>