

## SW Iowa Crop Update: September 9, 2009

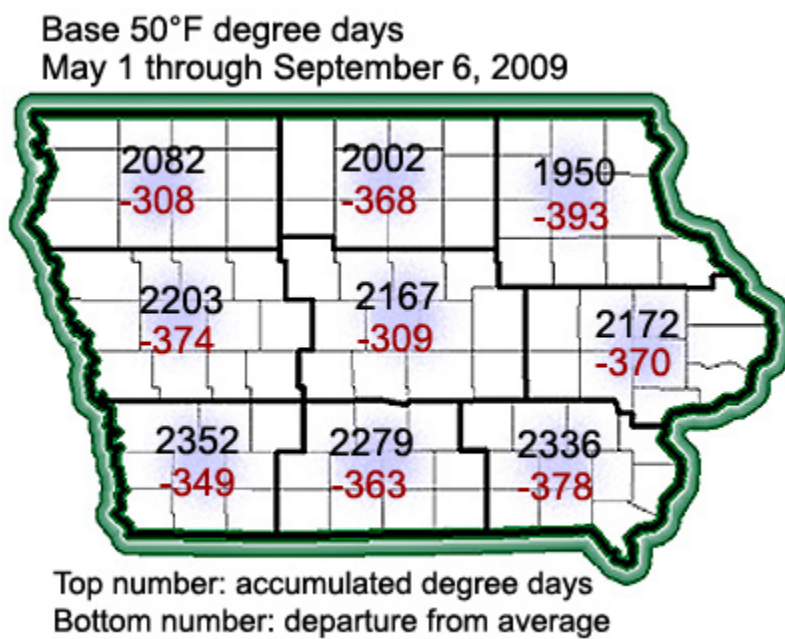
Kyle Jensen

### Weather

I often receive questions about Growing Degree Days and where we are at this year. Below is a current map of Iowa.

This information can be found weekly on the ICM News website:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/cropnews/>



The story this year is cooler than normal temperatures and plenty of rainfall in most areas of the state. The environment was very favorable for yield potential, but maybe was a little cool for normal crop growth. There has been a lot of talk about the chance of an early frost and maybe catching some corn that isn't at physiological maturity (black layer). If corn doesn't reach black layer and is frosted, test weight and dry down will be affected. The next few weeks will be crucial for crop growth and grain dry down.

### Corn

There are a couple of factors that affect the rate of dry down in corn: weather, hybrid, planting date, ear characteristics, and growth stage. Typical drying rates this time of year is 0.4 to 0.8% moisture loss per day. Wet or cooler weather will slow drying rates. Drying rates have ranged from about 0.3 all the way to 1.0% moisture per day. Corn at black layer is about 30% moisture, in normal growing conditions it will probably take 15-30 days to reach 15%.

## **Soybeans**

Early maturing soybean fields that were planted early are changing rapidly. Most fields are in the R6-R7 stage right now. Once one pod on the stem has reached its full color the field is considered R7. I have been doing quite a bit of scouting in soybean fields, counting pods and counting actual beans. My average for the past week is 2.49 beans/pod. Earlier today I was talking to Palle Pedersen (ISU Soybean Extension Agronomist), Palle told me average beans/pod is 2.54 in the past few years. Predicting soybean yields are something that is a bit elusive for most of us. I believe our soybean yields will average very well.

If you would like to predict your soybean yield before harvest, this is how you do it.

1. Determine your plants/acre on average (A)
2. Count average pods/plant (B)
3. Average beans/pod (C)
4. Assume about 2900 seeds/#
5. Soybeans weigh 60#/bu.

Ok multiply  $A*B*C$  to get seeds per acre

Divide this number by 2900 (or any other guess for seeds/#) for pounds per acre

Then finally divide by 60 to get bushels of beans per acre

If you do this, make sure to write it down and check it against your field average after harvest. In my experience, I've always over estimated what the field actually made.

If you have any questions, feel free to call or email. I will try to help as much as I can.

Thank you, Kyle Jensen

ISU Field Agronomist, Jim Fawcett, is holding a Precision Ag Field Day near Crawfordsville. Here is the information that he has provided about the day.

### **Advances in Precision Ag Expo**

#### **ISU SE Iowa Research & Demonstration Farm – Crawfordsville**

**September 17**

**10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Come see the latest in precision ag technology, including RTK guidance systems, auto-steer, automatic shut-off planters and sprayers, strip-tilling and planting on the contour using RTK guidance. The expo will feature field demonstrations and industry exhibits on the latest technology. More details will be available soon.

#### **Special Session for CCAs at Precision Ag EXPO**

CCAs and other ag professionals can earn CCA credits by attending a special session from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the Precision Ag EXPO on Sept. 17. Hands-on training in adjusting tillage and planter equipment, and discussion on how auto steer and RTK technology have helped to make strip till a more viable option on eastern Iowa hills. 2 hours of soil and water credit. More details available soon.

If you have any questions, feel free to call or email. I will try to help as much as I can or pass your questions on to our experts. Thank you.