Crop Update – Corn across the nine counties I serve looks very good. Much of it has reached that critical V6 stage (or is very nearly there) where the nodal roots are fully functioning and the plants really green up and take off. This is when nitrogen uptake increases. Up to V6, the plant isn’t taking much N from the soil. Now through kernel fill is when the nitrogen supply to the plant is so very important. I have not had calls on disease or insects.

Soybean across this area also looks good. SB planting went on longer, so we have a wider spread of stages, with much V1 or beyond. Most is at least VC, with few exceptions. I have not had calls on disease or insects.

Alfalfa 1st cutting has been at least cut, with most of that put up.

Rainfall – Rain has been spotty; Ankeny & Perry had a little over 1” last week, while Ames, Boone and Jefferson had just under an inch. Carroll and Newton had 0.3” and Marshall had 0.4”

I like to look at rainfall amounts for the season starting with April 1. Here is a map showing how we have done since then compared to normal.

Last Monday evening there was hail in a small area west of Minburn, again.
Temperature – I like to look at how warm we have been starting with the early planting. This year that was about April 14. Here is a way of looking at that. Not quite the same as GDDs, but it gives an idea of what has been going on compared to normal.

![Temperature graph](image)

Next issue, I’ll go back to showing GDDs.

**Use of UAVs** – For many of you, flying (or having someone else fly for you) your fields are next on your list of things to do. Here is some valuable information: [Choosing the Right Imagery: Best Management Practices for Color, NIR, and NDVI Imagery](http://crops.extension.iastate.edu/cropnews/2016/05/choosing-right-imagery-best-management-practices-color-nir-and-ndvi-imagery)

**Post emergence herbicide application** – Whether you do the application or you hire it done, within 30 days post application, you should be walking each field to look for any irregularities; does the application appear to be uniform, without contamination, without crop injury? And the big question – Was the application effective?

**Weeds Week** - July 22 – at the Field Extension Education Laboratory (FEEL) near Boone. An educational program for farmers and retailers with a focus on understanding weed resistance and a hands-on, practical approach to developing long-term weed management plans that work. Details can be found [here](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/newsletters-integrated-agronomics).