



AG NEWS TODAY

ISU Extension and Outreach information and resources for north central Iowa

August 17, 2018

Floyd County

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- www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/newsletters

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

- www.nutrientstrategy.iastate.edu

Iowa State Research Farms

- www.ag.iastate.edu/farms

Iowa Water Quality Initiative

- www.cleanwateriowa.org

Manure Management

- www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag

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- www.extension.iastate.edu/pme

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Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperating.

Crop Marketing Highlights Research Farm Field Day

New Information will be provided on gypsum research as well as pest management during the Sept. 5 event

August 13, 2018 | Terry Basol, Extension Field Agronomist, 641-426-6801, tlbasol@iastate.edu & Ken Pecinovsky, Northeast Iowa Research and Demonstration Farm, 641-435-4864, kennethp@iastate.edu

AMES, Iowa – The Iowa State University Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm will host its annual fall field day on Sept. 5. The event will run from 1-4:15 p.m. and will focus on best practices for marketing, gypsum and liming practices, and pest management.

The field day is free and open to the public. It will begin at the Borlaug Learning Center, located at the Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm, 3321 290th Street, Nashua.

Steve Johnson, Farm Management Specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach, will kick-off the program by providing his insights on the crop market and its outlook. Antonio Mallarino, Professor and Extension specialist in Agronomy at Iowa State, will discuss recent research on the use of high rates of gypsum, as well as provide a soil lime/pH update.



From there the event will move outside for the farm wagon tour. Meaghan Anderson, field agronomist with ISU Extension and Outreach, will share her thoughts on weed management, herbicide resistance and crop injury. Daren Mueller, associate professor and extension specialist in plant pathology and microbiology at Iowa State, will review corn and soybean diseases that have impacted farmers in 2018 and how to manage them in 2019.

Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) credits are available (1 NM, 2 PM, 1 CM). For more information, contact Terry Basol, Extension Field Agronomist, at 641-426-6801.

Directions to the Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm: From Nashua at the Jct. of Hwy 218 (Exit 220) and Co. Rd. B60, go west on B60 1.1 miles to Windfall Ave., then south 1 mile to 290th St., then east 0.2 miles to the farm.

Cover Crop Field Day Planned for Sept. 6 in Kanawha

Event hosted by ISU Extension and Outreach and the Northern Iowa Research Farm Association

August 10, 2018 | By Matt Schnabel, North Iowa Research and Demonstration Farm, 515-762-3247, mschn@iastate.edu, Paul Kassel, Extension Field Agronomist, 712-260-3389, kassel@iastate.edu & Angela Rieck-Hinz, Extension Field Agronomist, 515-231-2830, amrieck@iastate.edu

AMES, Iowa – Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and the Northern Iowa Research Farm Association will host a field day on Sept. 6 focused on using cover crops. The event will highlight both the benefits of cover crops and their management.

The field day will take place at the Kanawha fire station, located at 104 S. Main Street, Kanawha. Check-in and refreshments will be available starting at 9 a.m. with the field day beginning at 9:30 a.m. A lunch will be served at the conclusion of the event.

ISU Extension and Outreach specialists will be on hand to speak about their research and best-practices for using cover crops. Topics and speakers include the following:

- Matt Schnabel, superintendent of the Northern Research and Demonstration Farm, will review the growing season and discuss summer activities at the farm.
- Paul Kassel, field agronomist with ISU Extension and Outreach, will discuss the benefits of cover crops in northern Iowa and the different cover crops that can be used.
- Bob Hartzler, professor in agronomy and extension weed specialist at Iowa State, will talk about options for cover crop termination.
- Greg Tylka, professor in plant pathology and microbiology at Iowa State, will present his research on cover crops and their effects on the soybean cyst nematode (SCN).
- Daren Mueller, associate professor of plant pathology and microbiology at Iowa State, will discuss research involving cover crops establishment and corn diseases.
- Mahdi Al-Kaisi, professor and extension soil management specialist, will provide information on his research on the benefits of cover crops, including soil health benefits.
- Angie Rieck-Hinz, field agronomist with ISU Extension and Outreach, will discuss the changes in nitrogen management that are needed when cover crops are used in corn production.

The field day is free and open to the public. It includes complimentary refreshments and lunch. In order to ensure enough food is purchased for lunch, please register by Sept. 5 to the ISU Extension and Outreach Wright or Hancock county office at 515-532-3453 or 641-923-2856, respectively. Application has been made for two pest management and two soil and water Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) credits. *Photo: Photo credit to Iowa Learning Farms.*

ISU Extension and Outreach Entomologists Identify New Soybean Pest

Soybean gall midge confirmed in 12 Iowa counties

August 10, 2018 | Erin Hodgson, Department of Entomology, 515-294-2847, ewh@iastate.edu



AMES, Iowa – Iowa State University Extension and Outreach entomologists have identified and confirmed the presence of a new soybean pest, the soybean gall midge, in 12 Iowa counties: Lyon, O'Brien, Clay, Plymouth, Cherokee, Buena Vista, Woodbury, Harrison, Shelby, Pottawattamie, Cass and Page. In 2016 and 2017, there were isolated reports of soybean injury as a result of soybean gall midge in northwest Iowa.

Photo: Gall midge in the stem of a soybean plant. The stem exhibits swelling when infected, turns brown and eventually falls over, killing the plant. These midges start out clear-colored, but turn orange as they mature.

Not much is known about the soybean gall midge, and entomologists have not been able to confirm the species as of yet. Plant injury as a result of the pest has been most severe at field edges, which is a possible indicator that adults fly to new soybean fields following the growing season. Injury is usually restricted to the base of the plant. Initially, infested stems look swollen, then eventually turn brown and break off, resulting in plant death. In some instances, plants were infected with a fungal disease, but this was not a consistent occurrence.

If you see these midges infesting a soybean field in Iowa, please contact Erin Hodgson, associate professor and extension specialist in entomology at Iowa State, via email at ewh@iastate.edu or on Twitter [@erinwhodgson](https://twitter.com/erinwhodgson). Be sure to follow ISU Extension and Outreach information channels for updates: Integrated Crop Management, <https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/>; Integrated Pest Management, <https://www.ipm.iastate.edu/>; Twitter, [@ISU_IPM](https://twitter.com/ISU_IPM) and Twitter, [@ISUCropNews](https://twitter.com/ISUCropNews).

Managing Aphids in Corn

Source: Iowa State University Extension Article. crops.extension.iastate.edu

By Erin W. Hodgson, ISU Extension & Integrated Crop Management, 515-294-2847, ewh@iastate.edu

Ames, Iowa (August 23, 2016)--In the past, corn leaf aphid could be a problem during corn tasseling. This species aggregated around the ear and silks, and sometimes their honeydew production interfered with pollination. But natural enemies and the environment rarely let them persist past July. Therefore, economic thresholds for corn leaf aphid are targeted around VT-R1 and mostly for drought-stressed cornfields. Since 2010, aphids have been colonizing corn later in the summer and are building up to striking levels. They can be found at the base of the stalk, around the ear, and sometimes building up colonies above the ear leaf.

Starting in early August, I've been seeing corn aphid populations again. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Field Agronomist Brian Lang has also visited fields that have exceeded 2,000 aphids per plant. The areas having moderate to severe problems now include the northeast and northwest corners of Iowa. Some of these heavily-infested fields have already been sprayed with an insecticide earlier this year. From my observations this week, I noticed aggregated colonies at the end rows, but some areas have aphids throughout the field.

Aphids can build large colonies in corn, with two or more species possible.

Photo by Brian Lang, ISU



One important observation I've noticed is that cornfields can have two aphid species - corn leaf aphid and bird cherry oat aphid. They are closely related and look very similar in size and color. You can see more than one species in a field and even on a single plant. The bird cherry oat aphid has an orange-red saddle between the cornicles. Other aphid species can also be found, including greenbug and English grain aphid, but are not as common in corn this year. Species identification isn't that critical for management at this point (i.e., an aphid is an aphid).

All aphids have piercing-sucking mouthparts and feed on the sap from the plant phloem. They excrete sugar-rich honeydew that can cover the aboveground portion of plants. The honeydew can promote a sooty mold that interferes with plant photosynthesis. You probably remember seeing grey-looking soybean leaves from soybean aphid in 2003. We know soybean plants covered with mold and aphids can have serious yield loss, but we don't know the extent of yield reduction caused by aphids in corn. *Corn aphids can colonize the ear and ear leaf.* Photo by Brian Lang, ISU



Currently, there are no treatment thresholds for aphids in corn past tasseling, but regular sampling will help you make educated decisions about a foliar application at this time. Sample field-wide (30 plants for every 50 acres) to determine the average density. Here are some considerations to make before applying an insecticide for aphids in corn:

1. Are 80% of the plants infested with aphids or are they aggregated around the field perimeter?
2. Are aphids colonizing the ears, or the ear leaf and above? This would be more important than those aphids colonizing below the ear.
3. How long has the field been infested and is the density increasing?
4. Do you see honeydew and/or sooty mold on the stalk, leaves, or ear? Mold can interfere with photosynthesis and interfere with the grain-filling process. Moldy ears could also reduce grain quality and make harvest difficult.
5. Are you seeing winged aphids or nymphs with wing pads? This may be a sign of migration out of the field.
6. Is the field under drought stress? Dry weather will make amplify potential feeding damage to corn.
7. Do you see any bloated, off-color aphids under humid conditions? Natural fungi can quickly wipe out aphids in field crops.
8. What is the corn growth stage? Fields reaching hard dent may be past the point of a justified insecticide.
9. What is the expected harvest date? Some insecticides have a 60-day pre-harvest interval. Check the label and calendar.
10. Are you able to use high volume and pressure of an insecticide application to reach the aphids? Ideally, small droplets should make contact with the aphids for a quick knockdown. Don't expect residual to protect the corn from fluid feeders.

I strongly encourage you to leave an untreated check strip or two in fields that you spray. Try to leave a strip that is a fair comparison to the majority of the field - not just along the field edge. If you decide to treat for aphids in corn, I would like to hear about the yield comparisons. Your pooled data will help me formulate treatment guidelines for the future.

Iowa State Encourages Weed Identification Skills

Weed identification challenge is planned for Farm Progress Show; state fair weed identification contest results available

August 16, 2018 | By Robert Hartzler, Department of Agronomy, 515-294-1164, hartzler@iastate.edu; Meaghan Anderson, Extension Field Agronomist, 319-337-2145, mjanders@iastate.edu; & Willy Klein, Organizational Advancement, 515-294-0662, wklein@iastate.edu

AMES, Iowa — Several common Iowa weeds have evolved resistance to herbicides. Weed populations with evolved resistances continue to escalate statewide. Weeds are the most prevalent pest to negatively impact Iowa agriculture.

“Weed management remains a major concern for Iowa agriculture and addressing these burgeoning problems requires greater diversity of tactics beyond herbicides,” said Bob Hartzler, agronomy professor and extension weed specialist at Iowa State University.

Hartzler said accurate weed identification is the first step to successfully managing weeds. Because weed species vary in their response to different management strategies, proper identification is essential. So important that Hartzler and Meaghan Anderson, extension field agronomist, host a weed identification contest at the Iowa State Fair and are coordinating a weed identification challenge at the Iowa State exhibit during Farm Progress Show, Aug. 28-30.

Read more of this article at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/iowa-state-encourages-weed-identification-skills>.



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Extension and Outreach

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Floyd County Extension and Outreach

Calendar of Area Events

Tuesday, August 21, 2018

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM [Floyd County Extension Council Budget Committee Meeting](#) Charles City

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM [Floyd County Extension Council Meeting](#) Charles City

Tuesday, August 21 – Thursday, August 23, 2018

8:00 AM - 7:00 PM [Iowa Drainage School](#) Nashua

Wednesday, September 5, 2018

1:00 PM - 4:15 PM [Annual Fall Field Day](#) Nashua

Sunday, September 9, 2018

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM [Joia Food Farm Hosts NIFF Network](#) Charles City

To view this newsletter online or find more information about these events, go to www.extension.iastate.edu/floyd or call 641-228-1453