Early Season Issues: It looks like the frost damaged corn has recovered, and quite a bit of NW Iowa has received some rainfall recently. But, I also know of areas that have missed rain and the cornfields planted a little wet are starting to show problems getting those nodal roots established. Rain would certainly help them! This is a good time to dig your young corn plants to evaluate if nodal roots are establishing about 1” deep, see if they pointing down or horizontally, and notice if the pattern of the root mass is round or flat (sidewall compaction). If you have problems consider why they happened and try to correct that next year. Again – rain can certainly resolve many of these issues.

I also know of some soybean fields that have a few beans laying in dry soil – again, a good rain would help. Hopefully those who missed it this week will get some soon!

So, what does the weather for summer look like? I think we have to live it to really know, but ISU Climatologist Elwynn Taylor recently noted that it looks like we might soon enter into a La Nina period. Check out his recent comments here.

Hail evaluation? Every year we have neighborhoods that experience hail. This one is no different. A few reports of hail came in after the showers moved through yesterday. In fact, I will be holding an in-field meeting near Primghar at 11 am tomorrow (Thursday, June 3) at the intersection of Starling and 360th Street, 3 N and 2 E of Primghar. Join us if you see this in time, and you want to attend. ISU Extension (Joel DeJong), in cooperation with Josh Croatt from Ag Partners and Kurt Edwards of Edwards Ag Service will be hosting this meeting.

Reference materials for situations like this are always helpful. For evaluating corn, check out this article written by ISU’s Roger Elmore and Lori Abendroth after some early season hail 2 years ago. I have found it very helpful. Additionally, I updated a reference sheet I have used as a guide in the past when evaluating soybean hail damage. I hope you do NOT have to use it!

It’s Still Black Cutworm Scouting Time. This is the time period when black cutworms, if present, can thin your stand. I even know of a field in Harrison County where there was an area of soybeans damaged bad enough by this pest that some replanting had to occur – now that’s rare! High risk fields include low lying and poorly drained fields, fields next to grassy vegetation, and fields with winter annual weeds. Scout fields through the V5 (5 leaves with collars) growth stage. Visit the ISU ICM News article on “Black Cutworm Scouting Advisory” for more information.
Attention, Livestock Producers - Recent aerial flyovers and compliance visits by EPA staff in Iowa have garnered a lot of attention from NW Iowa livestock producers. This article written by Angie Rieck-Hinz, and posted on the Iowa Manure Management Action Group web site (IMMAG) outlines six different issues with which you really need to be familiar. Issues include combined operations and NPDES permits, single or multiple operation definitions, mixed species and NPDES permits, medium-sized CAFO’s, man-made ditches (road ditches) not useable as solid settling, and stockpile regulations. She states “It is imperative that you know how your livestock operation is defined by both the EPA and the DNR.” My understanding is that this is not the result of new rules, but perhaps an interpretation of existing rules. If you have livestock, at least read this article!

HOLD JUNE 30! On Wednesday, June 30, you will have the opportunity to attend not just one, but two educational events at the NW Iowa Research Farm near Calumet in O’Brien County. The morning event is our annual Research Farm Field Day, featuring 3 ISU researchers discussing soil fertility and nutrient placement, soil drainage, aphid management and bean resistance, and yours truly on a topic timely to the end of June. A free noon lunch sponsored by Iowa Learning Farm will be available for attendees. Iowa Learning Farm will also have their mobile “Conservation Station” on display that day. At 1 pm we will begin the afternoon program – a “Strip Till Field Day.” Four experienced NW Iowa strip tillers will share their hints for success, and several strip till equipment companies will have displays and representatives on hand for you to meet and ask questions. Attend all or part of the day – you choose! Watch future newsletters for more details.

"Thanks for Subscribing!"