Crop Issues: This is a great time to start digging up corn roots, evaluating for the shape and depth of roots, re-evaluate planting depth and examining for corn rootworm damage. It works even better to haul roots home and wash them out when looking for rootworm damage. In early June I worked with Travis Olson and Wes Strohbehn from Farmers Coop Society to do a video on evaluating the corn root system. It is now posted on their agronomy web page, and titled “Evaluating Your Corn Stand.” If you watch it, let me know if it is helpful – we might be producing more in the future for additional topics. Thanks to FCS for working on this experimental project!

Want an update on GDD’s? We are close to normal, according to a couple of NW Iowa sites whose data I reviewed today. To make graphs of some locations in Iowa, try out this [web site](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/plymouth/info/cropupdate.htm) that has data from Spencer and Sioux City.

Corn or Soybean Fungicides? Darren Mueller and Alison Robertson from ISU’s Department of Plant Pathology recently wrote articles titled “Summary: Foliar Fungicide on Soybean in Iowa (2006 – 2009)” and “Summary: Foliar Fungicide on Corn in Iowa (2007 – 2009)” in the ISU’s Integrated Crop Management Newsletter. The soybean data for that three year time period (831 Iowa observations) showed a mean yield increase of 2.18 bushels/acre by using a fungicide. The corn data (574 observations) showed an average increase of 4.04 bu/acre. Read these articles for more details, and for management suggestions in 2010.

Soybean Disease or Sunburn? I have recently observed leaves in soybean fields with sunburn. Sometimes the leaves tip over and the bottom can be exposed to the sun. I don’t know why, but I observed several fields yesterday that had leaves that were tipped. If the sun bakes down on them it can give those leaves a reddish-brown discoloration of veins and interveinal tissue on the lower surface of a portion of a leaflet. Click [here](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/plymouth/info/cropupdate.htm) to see a picture of sunburn damage. In 2009, XB Yang, ISU Plant Pathologist, wrote a good article about other diseases of soybeans that start showing up a little later in the season, including Cercospora, which looks like sunscald. Take a look [here](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/plymouth/info/cropupdate.htm) to compare the differences.
Dry Manure Field Day July 23 – On Friday July 23 ISU Extension will be holding a “Small Dairy and Open Feedlot Manure Management Field Day” at the Galen & Sandy Fick farm near Boyden. We will be discussing manure analysis and how it relates to the crop, calibrate a manure spreader, info will be shared by NRCS staff, DNR staff will discuss regulatory issues for smaller operations, and manure application equipment will be demonstrated. It starts at 1:00 pm. Please wear street shoes – we will be implementing biosecurity procedures.

Field Extension Education Lab (FEEL) Workshop Spots Still Open: There's still time to register! Clinics held at the ISU Field Extension Education lab are still open if you want to really spend some quality learning time! Registration for the Field Diagnostic Clinic (July 12-13) remains open through midnight, July 7. Registration for the Crop Management Clinic (July 14-15) is open through midnight, July 9. Register online to save time. For more details, check here.

ISU Extension Agronomy Positions Available: ISU Extension is looking to fill two positions like the one I have here in NW Iowa. These opportunities will be located in West Central Iowa, and also at the Borlaug Learning Center in NE Iowa. We always need good agronomists – so if you or someone you know might be interested, see this article for more details and a link to the application process. Let me know if you have questions about the position!

"Thanks for Subscribing!"