Time to Start Soybean Aphid Scouting: Soybean aphid scouts have been telling me, and I have also observed – very few soybean aphids so far. Additionally, the suction traps in Iowa have caught almost no winged soybean aphids. Brian Lang, my NE Iowa counterpart who does quite intensive scouting and research on aphids, has reported that the numbers in his research fields remain low, but are slowly growing – and the percentage of plants with aphids is starting to grow, too. His region usually has the highest pressure the earliest – and he hasn’t reported treatable levels yet, either. It remains early in the growing season, and a problem could still develop – therefore, the need to begin scouting.

ISU Entomologists Matt O’Neill and Erin Hodgson have a “Soybean Aphid Page” that you might want to check out. They are putting weekly podcast updates on the page, and have links to lots of great soybean aphid articles. Also, if you want to experience a model of scouting using the Minnesota Speed Scouting method, do that on the speed scouting exercise link on the right hand side of the page.

Remember that the treatment threshold is 250 aphids per plant on 80% or more of the plants. Or, properly use the Minnesota Speed Scouting method - which is a different way to estimate the same population. Insecticide applications should be timed to coincide with aphid populations that reached the economic threshold. Products that control soybean aphids have 7 to 10 days of actual chemical residual – and will do little to protect soybeans from aphids if there are none present.

Soybean Defoliators – I have had a few questions about some caterpillars and other insects that are eating holes in soybean leaves. At this stage of growth, the typical defoliator treatment threshold level is when 20% of the total leaf area has been removed by insects. 20% is more than most people estimate it to be! I would encourage you to look at this recent ICM News article titled “Green Cloverworms Appear In Soybeans” to get a better idea of what 20% defoliation looks like, and other management hints.

Corn or Soybean Fungicides Revisited – In the last issue I discussed fungicides for corn and beans. If you are still considering it, remember to look at Darren Mueller and Alison Robertson’s recent 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. Their research would indicate that the best timing for fungicide application for beans is the R3 stage of development. The R3 stage of development is defined by the presence of 3/16 long pods at one of the four uppermost nodes on the soybean plant. But, a
**Extension Crop Update, continued**

response to your investment is not guaranteed! Look at the article for research result summaries.

For corn, check fields for corn leaf diseases. Common rust and eyespot can be found in some fields. Recent warm weather may limit eyespot development but may promote gray leaf spot. Fields that are the most likely to benefit from fungicide are corn on corn fields, fields with susceptible hybrids, and fields with a high yield potential.

**Scout Now for Potato Leafhoppers in Alfalfa** — Get out your sweep net and scout for leafhoppers. Also review what Erin Hodgson, ISU Extension Entomologist, wrote in a 2009 article on leafhopper management for ICM News: [http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0615hodgson.htm](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0615hodgson.htm). If you start seeing a lot of “hopper burn,” you’ve missed the best part of the treatment window!

**Remember the Dry Manure Field Day, July 23** — This 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.

**ISU Extension Agronomy Positions Available:** A reminder - 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](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/) for more details and a link to the application process. Let me know if you have questions about the position!

"Thanks for Subscribing!"