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"The fees for service will be used to off-set direct expenses and to support the County Extension ANR Program."

SOYBEAN SUDDEN DEATH SYNDROME

By Jim Fawcett, ISU Extension Field Agronomist, 319-337-2145

Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS) is widespread again this year and now easy to see from the road in many fields. The typical leaf symptoms are that the leaf veins stay green and the tissue between the veins turns yellow and brown.

The leaf symptoms of SDS are similar to the leaf symptoms of brown stem rot. To distinguish between the two, split the lower stem longitudinally. The center (pith) will be brown or rotted out with brown stem rot and will still be white with SDS.

SDS first shows up anywhere there is poor drainage or surface compaction, so traffic patterns, especially along field edges, are easy to see. The fungus infects the soybeans soon after germination, even though the injury symptoms do not appear until late July or August. Cool, wet soils, which were widespread in May, favor the infection. In most years the earliest planted beans have more problems with SDS, because the soils tend to be cooler and wetter early in the spring. Fields with a history of SDS should be planted last. Also tile drainage can reduce the disease incidence.



Usually fields with SDS also have soybean cyst nematode. If the field has not been tested for nematodes, send soil samples in this fall and use nematode resistant varieties if the disease is confirmed. Planting nematode resistant beans will not eliminate SDS, but may reduce the severity of the disease. There are no varieties totally resistant to SDS, but there are differences among varieties in susceptibility, so variety selection can help manage the problem in the future. Hopefully some day we will have a seed treatment for SDS, but none are available yet.

EGG SAFETY, SALMONELLA, EGG RECALLS AND FOOD SAFETY: WEB RESOURCES FROM IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Iowa State University Extension has provided food safety information on the egg recall, salmonella and additional aspects of food handling. The information may be found at the following link or stop by the Extension office and we will provide you with a copy www.extension.iastate.edu/disasterrecovery/info/foodSafety.htm

FALL CUTTING MANAGEMENT FOR ALFALFA

By Steve Barnhart, Department of Agronomy

Rainfall throughout the growing season put most alfalfa producers behind two to three weeks for their first, and correspondingly their second, third, and sometimes fourth cuttings. Now in mid-September, producers are trying to decide on their remaining fall harvest options and the possible impact on winter survival of the stands.

The goal is to help keep the forage plants ‘perennial’ During the fall weeks, perennial forage legumes and grasses respond to shortening days and cooling average daily temperatures and progress through their gradual “cold hardening” process. The genetics of the variety determines how cold tolerant the plant crown and taproot can be during the winter months. Most successfully winter hardened alfalfa plants can withstand soil temperatures in the crown area to about 0 to 4 degrees F without crown tissue damage. At lower soil and crown temperatures, varieties and individual plants will vary in the degree of cold damage they may experience. To acquire their potential for winter survival, alfalfa plants should get five to six weeks of uninterrupted growth to accumulate root carbohydrates and proteins before going dormant for the winter. A killing freeze, or the temperature that will stop further top growth for the season, is about 23 to 24 degrees F for several hours. So it is important to manage fall harvests to give the plants the best chance for strong winter survival.

Fall cutting management strategies There are several things to consider if your alfalfa is knee high in mid-September and you are questioning whether to cut it. The first thing to consider is whether the field will be hay next year or not. If not, cut the alfalfa anytime. If it will be hay again next year, consider whether or not you need the hay. If not, then leave the last growth in the field – don’t graze in fall or winter. On the other hand, if you do need the hay it is best to wait until at or after the killing freeze (23 to 24 degrees F) to cut. Then leave a five to six inch stubble.

Some producers may hesitate to do this because it is difficult to dry hay in October, but the risk of winter injury to the field necessitates the wait. If you cut in mid-September, the plants will begin to regrow and begin to use what stored carbohydrates they have. The risk comes if this late growth leaves the plants with a relatively low level of available root stores when the killing freeze comes. Low levels of winter root stores may lead to a greater susceptibility to winter cold injury and to a delayed spring recovery.

Review this checklist to see how your summer and fall management has been relative to alfalfa stand vigor and overwintering potential. **These factors improve alfalfa winter survival:** 1) 4 inches or more of winter-long snow cover will help 2) winter tolerant variety 3) 2 or 3 summer cut harvest systems with good re-growth between cuttings 4) 5 to 6 weeks of uninterrupted growth during September and October 5) all of the last growth of the season left in the field (no cutting or grazing) 6) if a late fall cut was taken or grazed, a 5 to 6 inch stubble was left 7) management of insects (potato leafhoppers) during the growing season 8) good levels of available potassium in the soil 9) young stands – or older stands with no root or crown disease

OPERATION RE-LEAF RESIDENTIAL TREE PROGRAM

Washington County Extension in partnership with DNR, Alliant Energy and the Washington County Conservation Board are working together to sponsor the “Operation ReLeaf Residential Tree Program”.

Alliant Energy customers are eligible to purchase trees for \$25.00 each (*average retail cost per tree is \$65.00 with the remaining cost funded through a grant from Alliant Energy*). Tree purchase is initially limited to two (2) trees per household to ensure all customers have an opportunity to purchase trees. Advanced purchase is required as the quantity is limited and are sold on a first come first served basis.

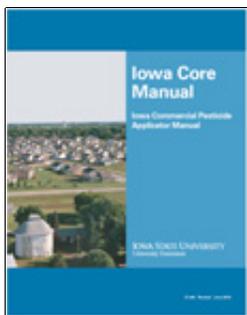
In the event that additional trees are available on distribution day, they will be released for purchase at 6:00 p.m. on a first come/first served basis, or until all trees are sold. **Trees must be picked up on Thursday, September 30, 2010, between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Washington.** Any trees not picked up by 6:00 p.m. on distribution day will be considered a donation to Washington County Extension.

Trees are non-refundable, exchanges will not be accepted, and plant material is under no warranty and/or guarantee. Checks payable to Washington County Extension. Contact the Washington County Extension Office at 319-653-4811 or go to www.extension.iastate.edu/washington to obtain an order form.

TREES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE (250 total available) – Shade trees are 6-8 feet tall in 5-7 gallon containers, conifers are 2-3 feet tall. Please consider the size at maturity when selecting the right tree for your site.

TREES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE: Bur Oak (6-8’ tall; 50 available), Northern Red Oak (6-8’ tall; 50 available), Red Maple ‘Red Sunset’ (6-8’ tall; 25 available), Sugar Maple ‘Legacy’ (6-8’ tall; 25 available), Flowering Crabapple ‘Sugar Tyme’ (5-7’ tall; 25 available), Serviceberry (5-7’ tall; 25 available), Norway Spruce (2-3’ tall; 25 available), Bald Cypress (5-7’ tall; 25 available)

NEW AND REVISED COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR MANUALS AVAILABLE



AMES, Iowa -- The Iowa State University Pest Management and the Environment Program (PME) has revised several training manuals for commercial pesticide applicators and certified handlers. The full-color training manuals are intended to provide Iowans with the basic understanding of safe and responsible pesticide use and the information needed to successfully pass certification exams.

The updated 128-page Iowa Core Manual, IC 445, contains the basic information on state and federal laws and regulations, pest management, label comprehension, pesticides, safety, the environment, and equipment and application techniques. The Certified Handler Manual, IC 500, is a new publication. Previously, Iowans who mix, load and/or repackage pesticides would read certain chapters of the Iowa Core Manual to prepare for the certified handlers exam. Now, with a stand-alone 64-page manual, it should be easier for Iowans to prepare for the certified handler examination. Seed Treatment - Commercial Pesticide Applicator Manual, CS 16, has been revised by industry and ISU experts. The 40-page manual provides updated information on how to select, apply, handle and dispose of seed treatments in a safe and effective manner. All three manuals will be available beginning Sept. 3 on the ISU Extension Distribution Center Online Store at www.extension.iastate.edu/store/ or by contacting the ISU Extension Distribution Center, 119 Printing and Publications Building, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011-3171; telephone 515- 294-5247 or e-mail pub-dist@iastate.edu.

2010 FALL FIELD DAY SEPTEMBER 15

The Fall Field Day at the Southeast Research and Demonstration Farm at Crawfordsville on Wednesday, September 15, 2010 will be an excellent opportunity for producers and agribusiness professional. The day starts with the Manure Injection Field Day at 10:30 a.m. followed by a **Free Lunch** with an afternoon roundtable of topics relevant to the growing season. The schedule will be:

10:30 a.m.	Manure Injection Field Day
12:00 noon	Free Lunch - What a Deal!
12:30 p.m.	Registration
1:00-3:00 p.m.	Fall Field Day

Eastern Iowa Forage Prices

These are hay prices paid at auction in recent weeks. Much of the price information is obtained from USDA Hay Market News. Personal contacts of local Iowa hay auctions secured price information for these market outlets. Auctions were chosen to reflect prices across Iowa. Other nearby auctions may exist. No endorsement of the listed auctions is intended.

Walcott (EC IA) 2nd Sat Dec-Mar; Noon Sales Resume in the Autumn **Keosauqua** (SE IA) Sat 11:30A Alfalfa & mixed: SmSq \$2.25-3.50/bale, Grass:SmSq \$1.25-2.50/bale Straw: SmSq \$2.25-3.00/bale **Ka-lona** (SE IA) 1st Wed, Yr-round 11:30AM Wed. (& 3rd Wed Oct-winter) Alfalfa: SmSq \$2.10-4.10/bale; LgSq \$52-60/bale; LgRd \$58/bale Mixed Leg/Gr: (SmSq \$2.40-4.40/bale; LgSq \$25-55/bale Jun) Grass: SmSq \$2.10-2.30/bale; LgSq \$40/bale; LgRd \$50/bale Straw SmSq \$2.20/bale; LgRd \$40/bale

2010 WASHINGTON COUNTY 4H & FFA FAIR

Congratulations to all participants of the 2010 Washington County Fair and Iowa State Fair! We are very proud of all of our 4-Hers and want to thank all of our volunteers who make the fair possible. We look forward to another fun and exciting year!



Fair Photos 2010

Take a look at photos from the 2010 Washington County 4-H & FFA Fair at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/washington/kidsteens.htm>

Tour Stops:

- **Crop Season Review & Farm Highlights** – Kevin Van Dee, Farm Superintendent
- **Soybean Sudden Death Syndrome**
- **Soil Drainage**
- **Corn Tipping back and Early Denting – Reasons and Implications for Grain Storage**



Please call 319-377-2145 by September 13th to make lunch reservations

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JOHNSON COUNTY EXTENSION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



With a new facility planned to start construction this fall, Johnson County Extension is in the midst of a capital campaign to underwrite the cost of a portion of the facility. The education and conference center will house over thirty Iowa State University and Johnson County Extension staff along with meeting rooms to round out the facility. The project has been two years in the planning with the goal to complete construction by early summer 2011.

Johnson County Extension supports many great programs including Master Gardeners, 4-H Community Clubs, Master Conservationists, Nonprofit Management Academy, Big Brothers Big Sister, Pick a Better Snack, ServSafe, Pesticide Applicator Certification, and Livestock and Crop Management to name a few. The new construction will provide for program growth in families, agriculture, youth, business and industry, and economic development programs.

The facility is 12,000 sq. feet with staff offices and a conference area. On-site parking is included in the design. The schematic design and floor plan are available for viewing. People wanting to support the project may by making on-line donations or completing the donation portion of the brochure by going to www.extension.iastate.edu/johnson/news/JohnsonCountyExtensionCapitalCampaign.htm

You may also contact the Extension Office at 319-337-2145 and a donor card will be mailed to you. All donations are tax deductible. For questions contact Gene Mohling, Regional Extension Education Director at mohling@iastate.edu.

FALL IS GREAT TIME TO SAMPLE FOR SCN, BUT NOT CORN NEMATODES

By Greg Tylka, Department of Plant Pathology

There will soon be a chill in the air and thoughts are focused on harvesting corn and soybeans. Another annual fall ritual is to collect soil samples. It is important to keep a few things in mind when considering collecting soil samples for nematode testing in the fall.

Fall is NOT a good time to collect soil samples to check for corn nematodes. Corn nematode population densities (numbers) typically decrease in the latter part of the growing season. And it is not possible to calculate back in time to determine what the numbers were in the earlier part of the growing season. Therefore, low corn nematode numbers obtained from fall soil samples are not very informative. Of course, if population densities of corn nematodes are high in soil samples collected in the fall, it is reasonable to assume that the numbers were high earlier in the season as well.

The exception in this situation is with the **needle and sting nematodes**. These two nematode species occur only in soils that are at least 70 percent sand and they migrate down into the soil profile during the heat of summer. So needle and sting nematodes are best detected in soil samples collected in the spring or in the fall.

Fall is ideal time to collect soil samples to test for SCN, in contrast to the situation with corn nematode soil sampling described immediately above. Fields in which corn or soybeans were grown in 2009 can be sampled for SCN. Sample results will indicate if fields are infested with SCN or if SCN population densities are being kept in check in SCN-infested fields that have had SCN-resistant varieties grown in the past.



Guidelines for collecting soil samples to test for SCN in the fall

- Samples should be collected using a soil probe.
- Soil cores should be collected to a total depth of 6 to 8 inches.
- Collect soil cores from 15 to 20 places in a zigzag pattern in a sampling area.
- Collect a separate set of soil cores for each 20 acres or so.
- Combine and mix soil cores, and fill a sample bag with one cup or more of soil.
- Label the outside of each sample bag with a permanent marker.
- A soil sample can be used to test for SCN and for nutrient analysis.

Numerous private soil testing laboratories in Iowa can test soil samples for SCN. The Iowa State University Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic also analyzes soil samples for SCN. The mailing address of the Diagnostic Clinic is 327 Bessey Hall, Department of

Plant Pathology, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-1020. The Diagnostic Clinic's current fee for SCN analysis is \$15 per sample and the [Plant Nematode Sample Submission](#) form should be submitted with the sample.

MANAGE SOYBEAN DISEASES AT HARVEST TIME

XB Yang, Department of Plant Pathology

Two soybean diseases - sudden death syndrome (SDS) and soybean white mold - are wide spread in Iowa this season. In August SDS showed up in almost every Iowa region, with some regions having high disease intensity. Large patches of soybean with SDS symptom are obvious from south to north. White mold, a disease that can drastically cut yields, started to get the attention of producers in late August. This year white mold is so wide spread that agronomists report observing it in many soybean fields in southern Iowa. In northern Iowa, patches of soybean killed by this disease were so abundant that I found them in nearly every soybean field while attending a field day Sept. 18. Before this year, the highest loss from white mold in my book was about \$32K in a farm. This year, a farmer told me he estimated a loss of \$40K to his farm from this disease. In the past, rotation effect made white mold outbreaks an even year occurrence. This year, is the first time we have seen a wide occurrence in an odd year. For most of the fields where white mold was found, the disease was scattered in small patches. To prevent the disease from developing into an every year problem, we should minimize the spread of this disease at harvest by limiting the size of disease patches. When combining a soybean field infested with white molds, harvest the disease patches last so that the combine will not spread infested plant materials to non-infested area. As for SDS, the management of its risk for future soybean fields should start when you harvest your corn fields. Our greenhouse and field studies show that corn is a good crop for harboring SDS pathogen, especially corn kernels. We compared the survival of SDS fungus in different crop residues (corn or soybean) which included different parts of a crop (root, seed, straw). We found that treatment that had corn kernel density equal to average harvest loss consistently had the highest SDS fungus population. Our finding is consistent with producers' observations that severe outbreaks of SDS can occur after a few years of continued corn production. Our results suggest that a nice and clean harvest of corn field should help reduce the risk of SDS, while a high amount of harvest loss increases SDS risk the next time soybean is planted.

CROP UPDATE from Jim Fawcett, ISU Extension Agronomist

Soybean Insects

The third generation of green cloverworm is now showing up in some soybean fields. In the past, the cloverworms that hatch in August have not been very destructive because they are killed early by disease and predators, so hopefully that will be the case this year also. Now that most soybeans are in the R5 stage (beginning seed), it may pay to spray an insecticide if 10% defoliation is reached. According to hale charts, 10% defoliation at R5 can result in a 4% yield loss, which would be 2 bu/A for 50 bushel beans. Japanese beetle numbers appear to still be lower than past years, but fields that have both Japanese beetles and green cloverworms may reach the 10% defoliation threshold. Soybean aphids are still at low levels in the area. Brian Lang has reported that some fields in NE Iowa have now exceeded the 250 aphid/plant threshold, although the soybeans are nearing the R5.5 stage when usually insecticide treatments do not pay.

Soybean Diseases

Frogeye leafspot is also fairly widespread in the area. It causes circular gray spots surrounded by a reddish-brown border on the middle to upper leaves in the soybean canopy. The disease usually doesn't show up until early August. Before soybean rust was present in the country, this was one of the primary reasons that soybeans were sprayed with a fungicide in the southern states. There may be some fields that could still benefit from a fungicide application to prevent the disease, although it is likely too late for most fields. In severe cases it can cause early leaf drop and premature death. It can also cause seed quality problems by turning the seedcoat gray on infected seed. Since it can be seedborne, the soybeans should not be saved for seed. The picture above shows frogeye leafspot, as well as a couple of Japanese beetles that wanted in the picture.

WHITE MOLD

I have yet to receive a call about or be in a field with White Mold, although Brian Lang recently reported it is now common in NE Iowa. While the evidence of the infections may show up at this time of year, the infections took place shortly after the beginning of flowering in late June. The infection itself is no longer spreading, but the evidence of the infection gives the appearance of the disease spreading as more plants show the symptoms of the disease. There most likely will be little positive effect of a fungicide application at this time because of the advanced progress of the disease.

“The most important thing for growers to do at this time is to note the presence of white mold in the field and then select for varieties with lower susceptibility or higher tolerance for white mold the next time soybeans are grown in the field. One thing to consider in fields with a history of white mold is to introduce the natural pesticide “Contans”, which is a pathogen of the white mold fungus. It has provided some benefit in other crops with white mold problems. It is best sprayed in the fall. The recommended rate is 1-4 lb/A. It won't be a quick fix for the problem, but can help to reduce the level of fungus down to a more manageable level.”



Corn

TIPPING BACK AND PREMATURE DENTING

Some corn is showing considerable “tipping back.” (If there is no “tipping back,” that usually means that a higher population would have resulted in higher yield.) Some corn is also already showing denting of the kernels, but the kernels are only in the early dough stage. Once the ears reach the R2 (“blister”) stage of development, if the plant is stressed and starts to “become less optimistic,” kernel abortion will occur from the tip back. Kernel abortion will continue to the end of R3 (“milk”) if stress is present. Once the plants are into the R4 (“dough”) stage of development, the only adjustment the plant can make is to the kernel size; the early denting is an indicator that the plants are continuing to be “less optimistic” and are adjusting kernel size down, which will result in lighter kernels at harvest. What is causing this stress? It may be the heat, but if the plants are running out of nutrients (nitrogen?) that is a definite possibility. However, if roots are very poor, rotted, or damaged by insects, that, too, can cause the plants to experience lack of water and/or nutrients and cause the plants to “retrench.” In a different year, drought could also cause this. Yields can still be very good in fields with tipping back and premature denting, but the top of the yield has been lost.

LATE GLYPHOSATE APPLICATIONS AND POLLINATION PROBLEMS

There have been some reports of late applications of glyphosate on RR corn (usually on corn taller than 4 feet) leading to some pollination problems. There are scattered missing kernels and what some have called “bubble” kernels – kernels that pollinate but do not develop. Hopefully this is not a widespread problem, but it is something we may hear more about as the combines get into the field.

CORN NITROGEN RATE CALCULATOR UPDATE

By John Sawyer, Department of Agronomy
Nitrogen (N) Response Trials Added

The Iowa nitrogen (N) response database in the [corn nitrogen rate calculator](#) was recently updated, with response trials added from 2009 research. There are now 188 trials for corn following soybean and 89 trials for corn following corn. Being able to easily update the database with recent data is one of the many advantages to this dynamic database approach for corn N rate guidelines. Having new response trial data allows rapid updating with changing hybrid genetics, rotations and climatic conditions. With the updated database, calculated N rates have changed slightly from last year. The table below gives the N rate at the maximum return to N (MRTN) and the profitable N rate range from the updated calculator for several N:corn grain price ratios. You can work with any price of N and corn you wish when running the calculator. Output information includes the N rate at the MRTN, the profitable N rate

Nitrogen rate guidelines in Iowa for different N and corn grain prices.				
Price Ratio ¹	Corn Following Soybean		Corn Following Corn	
	Rate ²	Range ³	Rate ²	Range ³
\$/lb:\$/bu	----- lb N/acre -----			
0.05	148	134 - 166	199	184 - 215
0.10	128	116 - 142	180	167 - 192
0.15	116	105 - 126	163	151 - 176
0.20	104	93 - 115	150	139 - 160

¹ Price per lb N divided by the expected corn price. For example, N at \$0.40/lb N and corn at \$4.00/bu is a 0.10 price ratio. Corn held at \$4.00/bu for all price ratios.

² Rate is the lb N/acre that provides the Maximum Return To N (MRTN). All rates are based on results from the *Corn N Rate Calculator* as of August 16, 2010 (<http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/soilfertility/nrate.aspx>).

³ Range is the range of profitable N rates that provides a similar economic return to N (within \$1.00/acre of the MRTN).

range, the net return to N application, the percent of maximum yield and the selected N fertilizer product rate and cost.

What is the Corn Nitrogen Rate Calculator?

The Corn Nitrogen Rate Calculator Web tool is located at <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/soilfertility/nrate.aspx>. It is a resource that aids N rate decisions for corn production and is helpful in determining the effect of fertilizer and corn price on application rates. The method for calculating suggested N rates is based on a regional (Corn Belt) approach to N rate guidelines. Details on the approach are provided in the regional publication [Concepts and Rationale for Regional Nitrogen Rate Guidelines for Corn, PM 2015](#). This approach and the Corn Nitrogen Rate Calculator are now being used by seven states across the Corn Belt: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

IOWA STATE RESEARCH FARM REPORTS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Since 1903, Iowa farmers have asked Iowa State University for research that applies to their area of the state and their particular soil type, and ISU has generated answers with applied research. Today, the ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in partnership with ISU Extension conducts research on Iowa farmland at 12 Iowa State Research and Demonstration Farms to fill that need.



Seven of the research farms are owned by associations (local farmers) and five are owned by the university. Previously, annual reports of research conducted on the farms were available to association members in print form. The 2010 report articles became available electronically to the public at <http://fpr.extension.iastate.edu> in June.

Articles are organized by research farm, university departments, broad research categories and more specific topic categories on the farm annual report website. “These articles will be of interest not only to crop and livestock producers, but turfgrass managers, home gardeners and those involved in local foods, grape and wine, organics and vegetable production,” said Mark Honeyman, Iowa State Research and Demonstration Farms coordinator.

There are 140 crop and horticulture articles currently available on the site. An estimated 100 articles will be added in late summer when the ISU animal industry reports become available, according to Honeyman. Plans are to have a three-year rolling cluster of articles on the website, or a total of approximately 700 research articles after three years.

The farm report website has a binder feature that allows articles to be sorted, selected and saved as a collection. Once included in the “My Binder” feature, the articles are organized, given page numbers and a table of contents is automatically created. The personalized collection of articles can then be saved to a personal computer and printed if desired.



“Offering research results electronically helps us put the research articles in the hands of more people in an efficient way,” Honeyman said. “We are fulfilling the Iowa State University Extension mission by generating information and getting it to people who want it and can use it.”

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Agronomist
Serving Region 15

What do you enjoy most about your position as field agronomist?

Every cropping year is different, so as a field agronomist I am always learning something new. It is rewarding to try to help others adapt to the rapidly changing agricultural technologies, and to learn from their neighbor's mistakes.

What sort of activities are you involved in and which ones do you enjoy the most?

As a field agronomist, I enjoy most being in the field. Besides all of the winter teaching programs, such as private pesticide applicator programs, I'm involved with doing applied research and educational activities in farmer's fields and on the SE IA Research & Demonstration Farm near Crawfordsville. I also do a lot of trouble shooting in the summer investigating crop problems.

What activities do you think producers benefit from most when they attend?

I think producers benefit the most when they can see for themselves how various technologies work in the field. This past fall producers attending the Advances in Precision Ag EXPO at the Crawfordsville research farm could try out for themselves new technologies, such as auto-steer. I also try to include local research and experiences into winter educational programs.

Areas of Expertise: Integrated pest management, soil testing & fertilization, corn & soybean production systems, weed control.