

AG newsletter

ISU Extension & Outreach

Washington County

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

... and justice for all

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FARMLAND LEASING MEETINGS SET FOR EAST CENTRAL IOWA

Washington Co. Extension to host at 6:00 p.m. on August 19

More than half of Iowa farmland is rented, and the percentage of farmland rented has increased over time due to the changing demographics of farmland owners. Iowa farmland cash rental rates decreased by \$10 an acre from 2013 to 2014; east central Iowa cash rental rates decreased by 3.9 percent in 2014. Additionally, farmland values have increased by 10.8 percent in east central Iowa from 2012 to 2013, but have leveled off in the first quarter of 2014.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach offices across east central Iowa are hosting farmland leasing meetings from August 6 through August 21 at selected locations. These meetings will address questions that land owners, tenants, or other interested individuals have about farmland leasing. Locations include Welton at 1:30 p.m. on August 6; Cedar Rapids at 1 and 5 p.m. on August 7; Muscatine at 1 p.m. on Aug. 18; Iowa City at 1 p.m. and **Washington at 6:00 p.m. on Aug. 19**; Maquoketa at 1 p.m. and Tipton at 6 p.m. on Aug. 20; Sigourney at 1 p.m. and Williamsburg at 6 p.m. on Aug. 21. Meetings are approximately 2 ½ hours in length.

Attendees will gain understanding of current cash rental rate surveys and factors driving next year's rents such as market trends and input costs. They will learn about types of leases and results of farmland value surveys. Additionally, information on 2012 Census of Agriculture, 2014 Farm Bill, CSR2, and Nutrient Reduction Strategy will be presented. A 100-page workbook will be included with registration that includes land leasing information such as surveys, sample written lease agreement and termination forms, and many other publications.

"Due to changes in commodity markets, cash rent values, and government programs farmland owners and tenants may have more decisions over the next year than in previous years, and this meeting provides information to stay up to date on farmland lease issues", says Ryan Drollette, ISU Extension and Outreach Farm and Ag Business Management Specialist. Drollette will be the presenter at the meeting.

Registration is \$25 per individual and \$40 per couple. A \$5 late registration fee will be charged if registering less than two calendar days before the workshop. Pre-register and find out additional meeting and location details by calling the corresponding local county extension office for the desired meeting location.



2014 FARM BILL INFORMATION

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/info/farmbill.html>

BEEF PRODUCERS INVITED TO TOM NOFFSINGER LOW-STRESS HANDLING CLINIC

KNOXVILLE, Iowa -- Learning to take advantage of the natural movement tendencies of cattle is the first step toward more efficient and effective handling, according to Iowa State University Extension and Outreach beef program specialist Patrick Wall.

“Low-stress cattle handling techniques benefit both the cattle and the cowboy,” he said. “Dr. Tom Noffsinger is known across the continent for his low-stress techniques and facility design, and we’re proud to host him at a clinic at the Davis County Fairgrounds in Bloomfield on Tuesday, Aug. 12.”

Wall said [Iowa Beef Center at Iowa State](#) and Merck Animal Health are sponsoring the clinic that includes classroom and demonstration sessions led by Noffsinger, a consulting feedyard veterinarian from Nebraska. In the classroom session, participants will learn how to design, build and work with a “Bud Box” system. Handouts will be available and note-taking is encouraged. Following lunch, the group will move to the covered pavilion on the fairgrounds for the low-stress animal handling demonstration.

Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. in the classroom in the 4-H Building on the fairgrounds with the classroom instruction beginning at 10 a.m. Lunch is at noon, and the demonstration starts at 1 p.m. Producers and young people interested in the cattle industry are welcome to attend. However, the handling demonstration area needs to be fairly quiet for attendees to hear and appreciate Noffsinger’s presentation.

There’s no cost to attend, but preregistration is requested by Aug. 8 to ensure adequate meal and material counts. Preregister by calling Sara Benson with Merck Animal Health at 641-777-9260 or email her at sara.benson@merck.com.

“Improving stockmanship using low-stress handling techniques can improve animal health and performance,” Benson said. “Dr. Noffsinger is the expert in this area, and we think his knowledge will be a great asset to all who attend.”

SCOUTING SOYBEAN APHIDS

Yield-damaging aphid populations can occur in any field and can not be detected from the road. There are a few factors that increase the likelihood of aphid problems. For example, smaller fields with wooded borders containing buckthorn are most likely to be the first to develop high populations.

Scouting recommendations Start checking soybean fields in mid-June and continue to estimate aphid numbers

weekly until aphid populations decline. A good rule of thumb would be to scout fields until the middle of August. Estimate aphid populations on 20-30 plants following a W-pattern throughout the field. Early in the season, aphids tend to be located on new growth. Examining the upper trifoliolate is a quick way to determine the percentage of plants with aphids. When counting aphids, count all aphids (adults and nymphs), but do not count cast skins, or confuse potato leafhoppers for aphids. Aphids tend to move down the plant toward the pods, stems and leaves lower in the canopy, presumably tracking the movement of nitrogen into pods. In the early reproductive growth stages, look at both sides of the leaf, stems, and pods throughout the canopy for aphids. The presence of lady beetles, honeydew, and ants also indicate high aphid populations. Unfortunately, at this time, predators are relatively rare in many fields. Ants tend to be more abundant on field edges. Within the canopy, large numbers of aphids on the stems and pods indicate populations approaching, if not exceeding, 250 aphids per plant.

Action thresholds The threshold for soybean aphid is 250 aphids/plant. This threshold is assumed to be an aphid population that is below the level where unacceptable yield loss occurs, but high enough that a high probability of reaching yield-damaging levels exists. This threshold is based on field averages and not hotspots or field borders. Hot spots often collapse. However, once a high percentage of the plants in the field have aphid colonies, rapid population increases on an aphid per plant basis can occur. Observations from Wisconsin and Iowa show that soybean aphids tend to leave soybean in the second to third week of August. Many reasons exist for this sudden decline in aphid populations, and many still believe that photoperiod may be a major reason. However, there are other hypotheses. For example, the translocation change in the plant during pod set and seed filling may play a key role. Soybean aphids are really good at tracking the nitrogen flow in the plants and move towards the richest and best food quality. Another reason can be that high aphid numbers can lead to a generation of alatoid nymphs, which develop into winged adults and leave the field in a few days. The latter indicates that they have overrun the carrying capacity of the plant which is not good from a yield standpoint.



MANAGING WHITE MOLD IN SOYBEANS

Farmers in the Midwest may be concerned about white mold (also called Sclerotinia stem rot) in soybean this year. The disease, caused by the fungus *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, is not common every year, but farmers who have battled the disease in the past will want to assess the risk of white mold development as soybeans approach flowering (growth stage R1 – plants have at least one open flower at any node).

Development

White mold development is favored by cool, cloudy, wet, humid weather at flowering. The disease is more problematic in soybeans in high-yield environments where high plant populations, narrow row spacing, and an early-closing canopy are commonly used. No single management strategy is 100 percent effective at eliminating white mold, and in-season options for at-risk fields are limited. There are fungicides available for in-season management of white mold, however not all commonly used fungicides are labeled for use against white mold in soybean. The NCERA-137 national soybean disease committee developed a table listing which fungicides are labeled for white mold (www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/BP/BP-161-W.pdf) and their efficacy ratings. These ratings are based on replicated research data collected from University trials.

Management

Several products have been rated as ‘good’ for white mold management, including Aproach, Endura, and Proline. If using fungicides for white mold management, keep in mind that efficacy may be based on the ability of the fungicide to penetrate into the canopy, and the timing of the fungicide application. Fungicides will be most effective at reducing the impact of white mold when applied at or close to growth stage R1. However, Wisconsin research data indicates that fungicides applied up to growth stage R3 (early pod – pods are 3/16-inch long at one of the four uppermost nodes) may have some effect on white mold severity, but later applications will likely not be as effective at reducing disease. Once symptoms of white mold are evident, fungicides will have no effect on reducing the disease. Fungicide applications for white mold management may be most useful on fields where varieties rated as susceptible to white mold are planted in a field with a history of the disease.

Harvest

If a soybean field is diagnosed with high levels of white mold, this field should be harvested last. This will help reduce the movement of the survival structures of the white mold fungus by harvesting equipment, to fields that are not infested. Also, be sure to clean all harvesting equipment thoroughly at the end of the season to avoid inadvertent infestation of fields. Rotations of 2-3 years between soybean crops can help reduce the level of the fungus causing white mold in fields.



POTATO LEAFHOPPER

Routinely the most damaging insect in alfalfa, although weather patterns this season have held populations down... so far. Scouting and management tips are available at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2014/0602hodgson.htm>

CATTLE FEEDERS SUMMER SEMINAR, MONTICELLO

August 11, 3:00 to 9:00 PM at the Jones County Extension Expo Hall. Registration \$10 at the door. The program emphasis is on marketing opportunities and management to optimize cattle performance and profitability. It will include industry updates related to animal care and sustainability, marketing opportunities in eastern Iowa, and animal handling techniques. More details about the program are provided at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/article/cattle-feeders-summer-seminar-set-aug-11> Preregistration is requested by calling the Benton County Extension office at 319-472-4739 or emailing Schwab at dschwab@iastate.edu

FIELD EXTENSION EDUCATION LAB PROGRAMS, AMES

Providing hands-on diagnostic training for crop production and protection professionals since 1987. The Lab is a 23-acre teaching and demonstration facility offering various programs during the summer. Details about the programs are available at: <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/feel/>

August 19: Late Season Management Clinic August 20: Late Season Disease Workshop

IOWA STATE CROP PRODUCTION EXTENSION MOVING TO AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

AMES, Iowa — Iowa State University Extension and Outreach has created a new team and direction to advise farmers on corn and soybean production. “We’re moving from the more traditional model of dedicated corn or soybean specialists to a new team of integrated cropping systems specialists who will focus on how corn and soybean production interacts with soil, weather, cover crops, crop rotation and management practices and support farmers’ use of data-driven technologies in precision agriculture,” said John Lawrence, director of agriculture and natural resources extension and associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

“We also are more closely integrating research, extension and teaching in these positions,” Lawrence said. Helping to move along this change was a recent initiative by Iowa State President Steven Leath to help colleges and other units hire “high impact” faculty positions. A new integrated cropping system position with an emphasis on precision agriculture was part of that initiative and will be part of the new extension team in the Department of Agronomy.

Sotirios Archontoulis (pronounced: So-tee-ree-os Ark-on-tool-is), who joined Iowa State in 2012 as a postdoctoral research associate in agronomy, began July 1 as an assistant professor responsible for leading the team. Archontoulis, a native of Greece, earned master’s and doctorate degrees in 2006 and 2011 from Wageningen University in the Netherlands, and a bachelor’s degree from the University of Thessaly in Greece in 2004. His research interests include cropping systems modeling, agronomy, crop physiology and bioenergy.

“Dr. Archontoulis is an excellent addition to our faculty and will be a tremendous resource for Iowa agriculture. His strong background in cropping systems and cropping systems modeling will lead to asking better research questions, decision support tools for agriculture and enhanced extension education programs,” said Kendall Lamkey, chair of the agronomy department.

Another member of extension’s integrated cropping systems team is Mark Licht, who has served as the extension field agronomist for central Iowa since 2011. Licht moved to campus as part of the new team. He is an Iowa State agronomy alumnus who joined agronomy extension in 2006.

Both of the new positions will integrate research and extension and will be involved in teaching the next generation of agronomists, Lawrence said. To fill the field agronomist position held by Licht, Mark Johnson, the extension field agronomist for north central Iowa, moved to the central region. Angie Rieck-Hinz, former coordinator for the Manure Applicator Certification Program, was recently appointed field agronomist for north central Iowa. Roger Elmore, professor of agronomy and extension’s campus specialist for corn production since 2005, left Iowa State last January to take a faculty position at the University of Nebraska.

UNDERSTANDING BEEF CARCASS DATA Chris Clark, ISU Extension beef program specialist

It’s county fair time in Iowa and many young people will exhibit and sell market beef projects at these fairs. Many counties offer some type of carcass contest that may include ultrasound evaluation, and/or actual carcass data collected at slaughter. Carcass evaluations provide valuable information about the final product and are excellent learning opportunities for livestock exhibitors. **Yield grade** describes the percent of carcass weight in the boneless closely trimmed retail cuts from the round, loin, rib, and chuck. Four factors are used to determine yield grade: hot carcass weight (HCW), ribeye area (REA), fat cover at the 12th rib, and kidney, pelvic, heart (KPH) fat. These four factors have traditionally been measured by USDA graders but some plants now use digital camera data to acquire this information. The equation for calculated yield grade is $2.5 + (2.5 \times \text{fat thickness}) + (0.2 \times \text{KPH}) + (0.0038 \times \text{HCW}) - (0.32 \times \text{REA})$. The yield grade scale ranges from 1 to 5 with lower yield grades being more desirable. Lean, muscular animals have lower yield grade scores. Fatter, less muscular cattle have higher yield grade scores.

Quality grade is an estimate of the intramuscular fat or marbling content of the ribeye. More marbling is considered better because it enhances the flavor and palatability of the meat. The degree of marbling is estimated by a USDA grader or by a digital camera/computer program to categorize each carcass as Prime, Choice, Select, or Standard.

Carcass designations are described as follows: *Prime* - slightly abundant marbling, *Choice (+)* - moderate marbling, *Choice* - modest marbling, *Choice (-)* - small marbling, *Select* - slight marbling, and *Standard* - trace or devoid of marbling. When marketed on a grid, higher quality grades are worth more money. The “Choice/Select spread” is the difference between in price per cwt between Choice and Select carcasses. There are potential premiums for Prime and upper 2/3 Choice, and there are typically discounts for Standard carcasses.



Most carcass contests rank cattle according to retail value per day on feed. A mathematical equation multiplies gain in carcass weight by percent retail product (strongly related to yield grade) by carcass price (strongly related to quality grade). That product is then divided by the number of days on feed.

BASE ACREAGE REALLOCATION DECISIONS By Steve Johnson, Farm Management

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) will be mail-ing letters to farmland own-ers and operators mid-summer. These letters will designate by FSA farm number the 2013 base acreage, the planted acres for commodity crops during each year from 2009-12 and the Coun-ter-Cyclical (CC) Yield associated with the yields on that farm from a previous period of time. The first option will be a one-time opportunity for the landowner to reallocate base acres, but not in-crease base acres on a farm by doing one of the following:

- 1) Retain the farm's 2013 base acres through 2018, or
- 2) Reallocate base acres on a farm, not to exceed the total base acres in effect as of Sept. 30, 2013. The election to reallocate bases will use the same acreage of each covered commodity in proportion to the four-year average of planted acres to the covered commodity, during the 2009-12 crop years.

The choice to retain or reallocate base acres is an "all or nothing" proposition. Partial retention of bases or partial reallocation of bases on a farm is not possible. In addition, landowners can also choose to update the program payment yields for each covered commodity crop on a farm based on 90 percent of the farm's 2008-'12 average yield per planted acre. This would exclude any year when no commodity crop acreage was planted. Yields in any of the 2008-12 years that are less than 75 percent of the county average can substitute that yield in the calculation.

ARC or PLC election and enrollment

Sometime next fall or winter, farmland owners or their operators can then elect by FSA farm number between a revenue program that covers price and yield losses - Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and a price-only program known as Price Loss Coverage (PLC). If ARC is elected, they will have to choose between a county ARC (ARC-CO) on a commodity-by-commodity basis or choose an individual farm ARC (ARC-IC) that combines all the program commodities on the farm together.

Payments for the county ARC are issued when the actual county crop revenue of a covered commodity is less than ARC-CO benchmark revenue. Payments are not dependent on the planting of a covered commodity crop or planting of the applicable base acre crop on the farm. If a payment is made, it is based on 85 percent of the base acres of the covered commodity times the difference between ARC-CO guarantee and actual county crop revenue for the covered commodity. Payments may not exceed 10 percent of the ARC-CO benchmark county revenue.

Potential ARC-CO payments occur when actual county yield times the national marketing year cash price for a commodity is below the ARC revenue guarantee for that crop year. The ARC-IC potential payments depend on whole farm revenue, since program commodities are combined. The program covers losses on 85 percent of the base acres for the ARC-CO, but only 65 percent of base acres for ARC-IC.

PLC is a target-price program that makes payments when national average cash crop prices drop below a "reference price" set in the farm bill. The reference prices are: \$3.70 per bushel for corn, \$8.40 per bushel for soybeans and \$5.50 per bushel for wheat. Beginning in 2015, PLC enrollment also allows the purchase of SCO insurance to reduce the traditional crop insurance deductible levels. Only farmers enrolled in the PLC program may buy SCO insurance and county yields are used. The farmland owner or their operator have to make a one-time, irrevocable election to enroll a farm in ARC or PLC for the life of the five-year farm bill. If no decision is made, that farm is automatically enrolled in PLC beginning in 2015. Payment triggers for both the ARC and PLC programs are based on marketing year average cash prices. Thus, any payments for revenue or price losses won't be made until the year following a loss when these prices are known. The party at risk on the farm - the operator on a cash rent farm - must still enroll annually the farm in the ARC or PLC program as designated by the election. That enrollment is not expected until early 2015 for the 2014 crop year.

More information available

It is still unclear when local county FSA offices will be actually processing forms that allow base acreage reallocation and yield updates, which won't happen until after the FSA regulation is published. Also, it is uncertain whether FSA will honor existing power of attorney forms that were signed and put in place after the 2008 farm program was enacted. The FSA Notices ARCPLC-4 (www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_Notice/arcplc_4.pdf) and ARCPLC-5 (www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_Notice/arcplc_5.pdf) provide a further explanation of this process, including screenshots of the online base acreage reallocation calculator.

NEW MANUAL SHOWS GROWERS HOW TO SHARE MACHINERY, CUT COSTS

AMES, Iowa -- Labor remains one of the key challenges for fruit and vegetable growers who want to scale up their operations to serve increasing consumer demand for local produce. A new manual from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture offers one possible solution: sharing machinery. A new 50-page publication, "[Machinery Sharing Manual for Fruit and Vegetable Growers](#)," discusses operational and organizational issues related to sharing specialized farm machinery for fruit and vegetable production. The manual has real-life case studies of growers who shared equipment, sample sharing agreements and worksheets for allocating costs fairly.



“Scaling up production for the retail and wholesale markets requires more land, more labor and often specialized machinery,” said Linda Naeve, Value Added Agriculture Extension program specialist who worked on the project. “To remain profitable, growers need to find innovative ways to improve labor efficiency through mechanization and other labor-saving strategies. But equipment costs can be prohibitive for small-scale growers and often they need several pieces of specialized equipment designed for different crops.” Naeve advised specialty crop growers to evaluate their options, including sharing, and understand the associated trade-offs between employing additional labor and/or purchasing additional equipment. The manual discusses several things that need to be considered before joint purchase and collaborative use of equipment. A project funded by the Leopold Center was conducted in 2013 to address these issues and evaluate how five groups formed, purchased and shared different pieces of specialized equipment, developed sharing agreements, managed the financial obligations and balanced the use of the machinery. The research project was coordinated by Georgetanne Artz, an assistant professor of economics at Iowa State University.

The publication discusses the five case studies and includes information for fruit and vegetable growers who are considering machinery sharing, such as finding group members and developing partnerships and sharing agreements. Also included are templates for and examples of machinery-sharing agreements and financial worksheets.

The publication can be downloaded free at either the ISU Extension Store at <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/> (look for PM 3064), or the Leopold Center website, <http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/pubs/alpha> (select by title). Portions of this publication were adapted with permission from Farm Machinery & Labor Sharing Manual NCFMEC-21, Midwest Plan Service, 2009.

RISK OF SUDDEN DEATH SYNDROME INCREASING WITH RAINS

One thing we have learned from outbreaks of sudden death syndrome (SDS) in years past is that this disease likes it wet. Last year we wrote about the risk of SDS increasing with the early season rain. But at the end of the article we threw in one caveat – soybeans were planted very late in the season, which reduced the risk of SDS developing. And after we published the article, the rains essentially stopped. Fast forward to the end of the 2013 season -- we still had some SDS in parts of Iowa in 2013, but it was not as nearly as bad as it could have been.

Development This year’s rain is triggering a similar increase risk in SDS developing. Unlike last year, most of the soybean crop was planted before the bulk of the rains started which further increases the risk of SDS. The early wet weather we have experienced so far in 2014 helps increase the root rot phase of the disease. Revisiting the table published in a Plant Health Progress article, one of the driving factors for late-season SDS development is significant rainfall during the late-vegetative and early reproductive stages. The totals in June 2014 are near the numbers in the SDS years throughout much of Iowa. For example, the precipitation total in Ames during June was 10.23 inches. Remember there are a few other diseases that may be confused with SDS such as brown stem rot and stem canker. Look for lesions on the outside (stem canker) and browning in the pith (brown stem rot) to distinguish from SDS. **Table 1. Average total precipitation in four years with high SDS prevalence (1993, 1998, 2008, 2010) and five years with low SDS prevalence (2001, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2011). Values are means of two locations: Ames (central Iowa) and Mount Pleasant (southeast Iowa).**

Year	Total Precipitation (inches)				
	April	May	June	July	August
Mean SDS year	4.16	6.04	10.52	7.80	5.88
Mean non-SDS year	3.56	6.16	4.60	3.56	4.88
30-year mean ²	3.60	4.88	4.96	4.88	4.48

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BUS TRIP PLANNED FOR BEGINNING AND YOUNG BEEF PRODUCERS

LEWIS, Iowa -- A two-day bus trip to various locations in Nebraska in early September will offer beginning and young Iowa beef producers unique networking and educational opportunities. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach beef program specialist Chris Clark said the trip is an organized activity of the Beginning and Young Livestock Producer Network (BYLPN) and includes visits to several operations to provide a wide variety of information, experiences, and discussions. "We'll have stops at several different beef operations, a packing facility and the USDA Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Nebraska," Clark said. "Our tour guide, Jacob Mayer of Settje Agri-Services & Engineering, Inc. has been very helpful in identifying and scheduling places with different approaches and strengths, and he'll be able to help facilitate some good discussions on the trip."



The trip is set for Thursday and Friday, Sept. 4 and 5, with the bus departing from the Cass County Extension Office in Atlantic at 7 a.m. on Sept. 4. Additional pick-up locations may be added as necessary. The group will over-night at the Fairfield Inn & Suites, 805 Allen Dr., Grand Island, Nebraska, and return the evening of Sept. 5. A block of rooms has been reserved for Sept. 4 at the Fairfield Inn.

"Participants are responsible for their own hotel room fee and can make reservations at the Fairfield Inn & Suites by calling 308-381-8980 and asking for the group rate for Young Producers Group Block no later than Aug. 8," Clark said. "After that date, rooms will be on an availability basis only." The BYLPN is a strategic initiative of ISU Extension and Outreach, with primary goals of creating regional peer groups of young and beginning livestock producers; and offering education, mentorship, and networking opportunities to participants.

"This bus trip is a fitting activity for those already involved in a BYLPN group, but people don't need to be members of an existing group to participate," Clark said. "We would love to see some new faces and get more people involved." Preregistration by Aug. 20 is required in order to ensure adequate transportation. For more information or to preregister, contact Clark by phone at 712-769-2200 or by email at caclark@iastate.edu or email Leann Plowman-Tibken at leann@iastate.edu.

GROWING DEGREE DAYS

Corn GDD from May 1, 2014 is provided in the following map: https://mesonet.agron.iastate.edu/data/summary/gdd_may1.png Cooler summer weather has dropped us about 40 GDD behind normal (that's about 2 summer days), but cooler than normal July-Aug weather usually allows for higher yield potential assuming we don't have an early frost.

Stay Informed - www.extension.iastate.edu/washington

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DISEASE/PESTS

Brown Spot in Soybeans If you are applying fungicide for Brown Spot (also called Septoria Leaf Spot), and haven't yet, it's likely time. Most soybean fields are R3 stage now. For additional information on timing at R3 go to: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2011/0713robertson.htm>

Mid-Season Update on Fungicides and Corn Diseases A recent article on this was posted at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2014/0717Mueller.htm>

Some Specifics About Northern Corn Leaf Blight This disease in corn is of more concern than most when considering a foliar fungicide application. The following article covers the concerns: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2014/0714Robertson.htm>

Goss's Wilt found in Northeast Iowa This disease can cause very large yield reductions. It's important to identify it correctly in order to realize that you must adjust your management to avoid this disease in the future. Here is an article from 2012 that covers ID and management practices: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2012/0611robertson.htm>

Soybean Cyst Nematodes (SCN) As we move through July and early August it is also possible to identify SCN right in the field. Fields with obvious problems may look like these examples: <http://www.plantpath.iastate.edu/scn/symptoms.htm> This time of season, the cysts are a light-yellow color and can be seen on the roots. For a photo of this and some additional information go to: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2011/0621tylka.htm> Soil samples for SCN testing and cyst counts can be taken anytime of the season. The sample submission form with instructions is available at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PD32.pdf>