CROP NOTES for November 1, 2018
Iowa State University Extension Information for Northeast Iowa
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Past issues of Crop Notes are posted at:
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/winneshiek/page/crop-notes-brian-lang
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WEEDS
EPA Announces Updates for Dicamba Label
Additional steps for future use to further minimize damage to non-target crops resulting from dicamba used on dicamba-tolerant crops (over-the-top applications). From:
https://www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/registration-dicamba-use-dicamba-tolerant-crops#q2
1. Only certified applicators may apply dicamba over the top (those working under the supervision of a certified applicator may no longer make applications).
2. Prohibit over-the-top application of dicamba on soybeans 45 days after planting and cotton 60 days after planting.
3. For cotton, limit the number of over-the-top applications from 4 to 2 (soybeans remain at 2 OTT applications).
4. Applications will be allowed only from 1 hour after sunrise to 2 hours before sunset.
5. In counties where endangered species may exist, the downwind buffer will remain at 110 feet and there will be a new 57-foot buffer around the other sides of the field (the 110-foot downwind buffer applies to all applications, not just in counties where endangered species may exist).
6. Clarify training period for 2019 and beyond, ensuring consistency across all three products.
7. Enhanced tank clean-out instructions for the entire system.
8. Enhanced label to improve applicator awareness on the impact of low pH’s on the potential volatility of dicamba.
9. Label clean up and consistency to improve compliance and enforceability.

So... there are a few questions about these changes that we need to seek clarification on:
1. I assume endangered species refers to endangered plant species, not insects, fish, snails, birds, mammals, etc. But we will ask EPA to find out. Currently there are no “endangered” plant species listed for Iowa, only “threatened” species. FYI, Iowa’s endangered/threatened species list:
2. Please don’t ask me where they got the idea of using a 57-foot buffer distance. Obviously it doesn’t match up with typical planter widths or applicator booms. I guess it just means we likely use something like 60-feet or wider depending on the situation. And maybe it doesn’t even matter for Iowa if question (1) above only applies to endangered plants. However, there are some endangered plant species listed in other states.
3. The cut-off of over-the-top applications at 45-days after planting makes no mention of the current cut-off including R1 stage. Although, I assume it doesn’t replace the R1 stage cut-off, just whichever occurs first. We’ll ask EPA to find out.

INSECTS
Defining Bt Terminology
The terms “stacked”, “pyramid”, and “SmartStax” are often confused. Different Bt proteins attack different caterpillar pests of corn. There are four Bt proteins that effect corn rootworm larvae below-ground, and five Bt proteins that manage above-ground pests.
- “Stacked” - If a corn hybrid is stacked, it contains one trait for both below-ground and above-ground pests.
- “Pyramid” - If a hybrid is pyramided, it contains at least two traits that attack the same pest.
- “SmartStax” – These are a combination of a pyramided and stacked hybrid.

SOIL FERTILITY
Soil Sampling and Soil Test Interpretation
Routine soil testing is an excellent investment to know where to put your inputs. Be sure to fertilize the low testing soils, but not the high testing soils. The idea of just cutting back on fertilizer across the whole farm regardless of soil test levels is not a good idea. Most farmers have ag suppliers providing this task for them… collect soil samples, send to a lab, interpret the results.

Common mistakes:
1. Not collecting enough soil cores per soil sample. Good representation of the site is critical for reliable results. Take a minimum of 12 corers per sample, preferably 15, and in some cases as many as 20 cores per sample is recommended. This includes soil sampling with grid sampling programs. For an explanation, go to ISU Extension publication CROP 3108, “Take a Good Soil Sample to Help Make Good Fertilization Decisions”, https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/3915
2. Don’t assume the Soil Testing Lab recommendations are based on maximum economic return to fertilizer costs. Many lab recommendations are higher than what ISU Extension research shows to be best economic return. ISU Extension provides a publication to help interpret soil test results. Get publication PM 1688, “A General Guide for Crop Nutrient and Limestone Recommendations in Iowa”. In its most simplest form, when P and K soil test levels fall within the “optimum range”, fertilizer for estimated crop removal. Calculate crop removal from Table 2, page 4 or PM 1688. A history of combine yield monitor data would be helpful. If soil test levels are in the “low range”, apply a little more than crop removal to slowly build back over time to the “optimum range”. If soil test levels are in the “high range” skip the fertilizer for a year. ISU’s levels of “low, optimum, high” defined in PM 1688 may not be the same as soil test levels used by other labs, but as long as you have the soil testing lab’s test results, you can use their ppm P and ppm K numbers with the ISU tables and soil test levels from PM 1688, https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/5232

FARM MANAGEMENT
Farmland Value Survey
Results posted Oct. 2018 are available at the following link: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/wholefarm/html/c2-75.html
Little change in values. Northeast is up 0.7% while the statewide average is down 1.7%

Farm Financial Planning Program
This program offers one-on-one financial counseling, a computerized analysis of the farm business, and referral to other extension programs or outside services that may be useful. This service is offered at no charge. It is funded by the Agricultural Credit School, a program of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and the Iowa Bankers Association. For more information, go to: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/farmanalysis/

VARIERTY TRIALS
Links to University Trials, but not all results are posted yet
- Iowa: http://www.croptesting.iastate.edu/
- Illinois: http://vt.cropsci.illinois.edu/
• Minnesota: All trials are eventually posted at:
  https://www.maes.umn.edu/publications/field-crop-trials
  However, current posting of soybean trials are available at: http://blog-crop-
  news.extension.umn.edu/2018/10/2018-u-of-m-se-minnesota-regional.html
• North Dakota: http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/varietytrials
• South Dakota: http://igrow.org/agronomy/profit-tips/variety-trial-results/
• Wisconsin: https://fyi.uwex.edu/fieldcroppathology/university-of-wisconsin-variety-
  trials/
• Alfalfa variety information on winter survival and pest resistance ratings (2018

FIRST, another interesting source of variety trial information is Farmers’ Independent Research
of Seed Technologies (FIRST). Go to: http://firstseedtests.com/

EVENTS

Automatic Milking System Tours at 9 Location in Northeast and Eastern Iowa
Each tour is open to the public, no preregistration is required.
  Oct. 23 near Monona and Elgin
  Nov. 5 near Westgate and Clarksville
  Nov. 13 near Epworth and Colesburg
  Nov. 14 near Bernard, Dubuque and Peosta
For details about farm hosts, times, locations and directions, go
to: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/tours-automatic-milking-systems-feature-precision-
management
For more information, contact extension dairy specialist Jenn Bentley at jbentley@iastate.edu or
563-382-2949 or extension dairy specialist Larry Tranel at 563-563-583-6496 or
tranel@iastate.edu

Nov. 9 to Dec. 12, 2018 Pro-Ag Outlook Meetings, 10 locations in Iowa
The meetings are designed to provide agribusiness leaders with a concise evaluation of current
market conditions, expected trends in crop and livestock income potential and management
implications. For links to individual meeting locations, go to:
https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/info/meetings.html
• Altoona - Nov. 9
• Carroll - Nov. 12
• Fort Dodge - Nov. 14
• Waterloo - Nov. 15
• Mason City – Nov. 16
• Cresco - Nov. 21
• Greenfield - Dec. 3
• Iowa City - Dec. 5
• Mt. Pleasant - Dec. 6
• Bloomfield – Dec. 6
• Sheldon – Dec. 12
• Storm Lake - Dec. 12
Nov. 13, Women and Grain Marketing, Nashua
A four-session course (Nov. 13, 20, 27, Dec. 4) to assist women in developing a plan for marketing corn and soybeans. Learn how to manage price risk using tools like forward contracts, futures and options contracts, alternative marketing contracts, and crop insurance. Participants will work in a computer lab to access online decision tools and to develop a marketing plan. Learn market strategies and how to stay on track for long term marketing success. For registration more information, go to: http://www.aep.iastate.edu/womeninag/2018/nashua

Nov. 14, 17, 20, 29, Dec. 3, Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Programs in Northeast IA
Upcoming dates for BQA certification opportunities. For more dates, locations and details go to: https://www.iabeef.org/resources/producer-resources/iowa-beef-quality-assurance-program
- Nov. 14, Dyersville, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, RSVP Nov. 12
- Nov. 17, Waukon, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- Nov. 20, Walcott, 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM
- Nov. 29, Maquoketa, 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM
- Dec. 3, Durant, 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Nov. 14-15, North Central Extension-Industry Soil Fertility Conference, Des Moines
Intended for university soil fertility and crop production specialists, industry agronomists, crop advisers, and agency personnel. The goal of the conference is to facilitate sharing of new soil fertility and nutrient management research information and fertilizer industry developments. Presentations highlight ongoing soil fertility research at universities in the North Central region (IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, ON, PA, SD, and WI). For more information, go to: https://conference.ipni.net/conference/ncsfc2018

Nov. 15, Women, Land & Legacy Tax Credits/Beginning Farmer Workshop, Epworth
1:30 to 3:30 PM at the City Hall in Epworth. Reservations are due by Nov. 10 to Colleen Siefken, 563-876-3418 x3, colleen.siefken@ia.nacdnet.net Program includes presentations on incentives to lease land, equipment, livestock to a beginning farmer, or hire a beginning farmer; information on tax credits or reduced interest rates for beginning farmers; and other related resources. For reservations and more information, contact Colleen Siefken by Nov. 10, 563-876-3418 x3, colleen.siefken@ia.nacdnet.net

Nov. 18-19, 18th Annual Iowa Organic Conference, Iowa City
For everything about the conference, go to: https://register.extension.iastate.edu/iowaorganic

Nov. 26-27, Iowa Forage and Grasslands Conference, Des Moines
At the Des Moines Airport Holiday Inn. Jim Gerrish, renowned grazing consultant, and Byron Shelton, senior program director of the Savory Institute, are scheduled to speak during the Nov. 26 evening session and again in in-depth sessions on Nov. 27. For program details, go to http://iowaforage.org/

Nov. 28-29, The 30th Annual Integrated Crop Management Conference, Ames
The program features 38 workshops for attendees to select from. Presenters include guest speakers from other universities and organizations to share research findings and technology from across the Midwest. The program draws nearly 1,000 attendees each year, and has at times
filled to capacity so don’t delay registering. For more information about the program, agenda and registration, go to: http://www.aep.iastate.edu/icm/

Dec. 5  Swine Biosecurity Workshop, Manchester  
1:00 to 4:00 PM at the Delaware County Extension office. Free program. More details to follow.

Dec. 6, Advanced Calving Clinic for Dairy and Beef, Calmar  
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Dairy Center, Calmar. A free in-depth program on neonatal calf care, calving first aide and hands-on experience with "Frosty" a life size-cow model used to teach calving management, dystocia, and delivery. The program is open to all dairy and beef producers, students, and industry persons. The program is generously supported by local businesses, therefore it is free of charge for participants. Please pre-register by November 28 to reserve your seat. Seats are limited. Register online at www.nicc.edu/solutions (type calving clinic in the search box upper right corner of page to get to the dairy and beef registration pages)

Nov.-Dec., Commercial Pesticide Applicator CEU Programs  
These programs are offered at most county extension offices. Contact the local extension office to reserve a space. Registration forms will not be available until mid-September.  
https://www.extension.iastate.edu/psep/ComAp.html
  Nov. 7, Categories: 3O (Ornamental Pest), 3T (Turf Pest), 3OT (Ornamental and Turf Pest), and 10 (Research and Demonstration)
  Nov. 13, Private and Commercial, Categories: 7C (Fumigation), and 10 (Research & Demonstration)
  Nov. 14, Categories 1A (Ag Weed), 1B (Ag Insect), 1C (Ag Disease), and 10 (Research & Demonstration)
  Dec. 5, Categories 7A (General & Household Pest), 7B (Termite Control), 8 (Public Health Control), and 10 (Research & Demonstration)

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