As I write this on July 1st, I have not been through all 9 counties I serve, but I did take a short drive from Story City to Ellsworth to Radcliffe on the evening of June 30 and observed hail damage south of Hwy 175. The picture below is the worst I saw last night, but I have heard reports of worse damage. As of last night and even today, it is a bit tough to determine the impact of hail on crops. Generally speaking, a few days may need to pass prior to looking at plant damage and whether the plants will recover. Replant considerations will be affected by how long it takes ponds to drain and soils to dry. Research shows that as of July 1, replanted soybean may yield only yield 33% of normal yield. Things that must be considered are previously applied herbicides and soil conditions if replanting is possible.

Hail Soybean
Beans tend to branch, so the number of plants per acre can vary greatly with moderate effect on yield. Plants cut off below the cotyledons will not regrow. If plants are broken off above the cotyledons, there is a bud in the axil between the cotyledon and stem and between the unifoliate and trifoliate leaves and the stem can produce new growth. It takes about 4-7 days to see regrowth on soybean after hail. Please consult Evaluating Hail Damage on Soybean and...
Corn

Growth stage is very important when assessing hail damage to corn. The growing point is below ground until about the V6 stage (6 full collars) and prior to this stage corn will generally regrow. If the growing point is above ground, the plant may still grow depending on if the growing point was damaged. Refer to the link above for discussion on corn damage, or access NCH-1, Assessing Hail Damage to Corn. While this publication is a bit dated, the information is still a good reference.

Use of Cover Crops and Forages in Flooded Areas

In 2010, Steve Barnhart, ISU extension forage agronomist wrote the article Forage and Cover Crop Considerations for Delayed Planting and Flooded Sites. This article contains good information and is timely given recent heavy rains.

Flooding Resources

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach maintains a list of resources to help folks cope with flooding. Check out this link Dealing with Flooding.

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