The heat was on last week and we needed it to help our corn crop. Here are some Growing Degree Days (GDDs) as calculated from May 1 to August 25 (base 50) for selected areas. The first number is the current GDDs for this year, and the second number is the average from 1951 until now. The number in parentheses is the departure from average.

Clarion 1946 2089 (-143)
Ft. Dodge 1940 2164 (-224)
Mason City 1916 2034 (-118)
Rockwell City 2022 2190 (-168)
(Source Iowa Environmental Mesonet)

The Northern Iowa Research Farm at Kanawha reported for the week ending August 24 a total of 2077 GDD (April 1-August 24). The 30-year average for the research farm for this same time period is 2373; and the 5-year average is 2340.

Crop Maturity
Corn
Corn is R4 (dough) to R5 (dent). R5 is defined as kernels that are dented at the top due to declining moisture. Typically at beginning R5, moisture is around 60%. R5 stages can be determined by
watching the milk line progress in the kernel. The length of time it takes to progress through each 1/4 milk line stage is dependent on temperature, moisture and hybrid maturity, but on average it takes about 3 weeks to get from 1/4 milk stage to physiological maturity. At this point the crop has accumulated its total dry matter and is considered safe from frost. More than 50% of dry matter accumulation occurs during R5 so stress during this time can affect kernel weight. (Source: PMR 1009, Corn Growth and Development)

**Soybean**

Beans are mostly at R6, but I have seen a few fields at R7. R6 is defined as "pod containing a green seed that fills the pod cavity at one of the four uppermost nodes on the main stem with a fully developed trifoliate leaf node." It takes about 3 weeks to get from R6 to R7 (beginning maturity) when the accumulation of dry matter stops. (Source: PM 1945, Soybean Growth and Development)

---

**EVENTS**

Thursday, Sept. 4, 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Northern Iowa Research and Demonstration Farm Field Day will be held at the south farm, near Kanawha. Elwynn Taylor, Extension and Outreach climatologist, will discuss the new weather station and current trends in weather and climate. Bob Hartzler, Extension and Outreach weed management specialist, will discuss waterhemp management in corn and soybean and research and identification of Palmer amaranth. Greg Tylka, Extension and Outreach nematologist, will discuss recent research on soybean cyst management and ways farmers can manage nematodes that feed on corn. Micah Smidt, Paul Kassel and Angie Rieck-Hinz will also discuss the cropping season at the farm and in general for north central Iowa. This event is free, but please
RSVP if you plan to attend lunch by calling 641-923-2856.

Thursday, Sept. 4, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Help the Wright County Extension Office celebrate the 60th birthday of Cy, ISU's mascot. Show your ISU pride and wear your cardinal and gold. This free tailgate will take place at the Gazebo Park in Clarion (Extension office in the event of inclement weather). Wright County staff and council members will be serving hotdogs and chips. There will also be games, a contest for ISU memorabilia and door prizes. ISU Extension Specialists will be on hand to answer questions.

Friday, Sept. 12, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Iowa Learning Farms is hosting a cover crops field day at Titan Machinery, Williams, IA. Adding cover crops to a cash crop rotation is the emphasis at this field day, co-sponsored by Farm Bureau. Iowa State University associate professor of agricultural and biosystems engineering and extension agricultural engineer Matt Helmers will talk about the benefits of adding cover crops and the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Also, hear from an area farmer who is incorporating cover crops. A complimentary lunch will be served. Please RSVP to 515-294-8912.