Mother Nature has not been kind this year. Cold and wet in early spring, followed by wet conditions in June and again in August, cooler than normal temperatures throughout the growing season, localized frost in early September and what appears to be a wet start to September are all contributing to crop maturity concerns.

Micah Smidt reported the Northern Iowa Research Farm had a low temperature of 30.8 degrees on Saturday morning, September 13. Other reports I have received include 31 from a farmer near Kensett; 32.3 in Mason City; 33 at Hampton and Iowa Falls; 31 at Webster City and 30 near Clarion. In most cases what I have seen or what has been reported is frosted leaves on the upper 4-6 inches of the beans, and corn with the upper 2-3 leaves showing frost damage. Since I started writing this newsletter over the weekend, colder temperatures were reported in places in Franklin County on the morning of September 16.

I compiled a list of resources addressing frost/freeze concerns on forages, corn and soybean titled 2014 Fall Frost/Freeze Concerns.

Another concern for corn is the widespread level of stalk and ear rots showing up in fields. Please see the article Watch for Stalk and Ear Rots in Corn by Angie Rieck-Hinz, Extension Field Agronomist.

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You should scout fields for leaf diseases, stalk and ear rots to help make management decisions and hybrid choices for next year. Scouting for stalk rots at black layer will also help you assess standability in corn and to prioritize the order in which to harvest fields to reduce harvest losses. The following scouting tips were provided by Alison Robertson in the September 2010 *ICM News*.

- Target fields that have had significant foliar disease.
- Target hybrids with low stalk rot and/or standability scores.
- Evaluate at least 100 plants per field (20 plants in 5 locations).
- Use the “push test” or the “pinch test” to determine standability. If 10 to 15 percent of plants lodge or are rotted, schedule an early harvest.

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**Save the Dates:**
Before you get busy with harvest please consider adding these dates of interest to your calendar. Program agendas and registration information will be available later this fall.

- December 10, 2014, Ag-Chem Dealer Meeting, Ames, IA
- January 8, 2015, Crop Advantage Series, Mason City, Iowa
- January 13, 2015, Crop Advantage Series, Ames, Iowa
- January 21, 2015, Crop Advantage Series, Fort Dodge, Iowa
status as a U.S. veteran. Inquiries can be directed to the Director of Equal Opportunity and Compliance, 3280 Beardshear Hall, (515) 294-7612.

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