Corn
Top Die Back
It's hard not to notice how much the corn has changed in the past 10 days. It looks more like mid-October than the second week of September. Corn is dying from both the top and the bottom with little to no green leaves in some fields. The 90+ degree temperatures of last week plus all the stress of too much water in some places has pushed this issue even faster. Some of this is natural maturity, however, I delivered some samples to the lab at ISU from John Holmes at North Central Coop in Clarion. The lab confirmed the presence of Anthracnose Top Dieback, but because the fields are so uniform with these symptoms it is hard to believe this is all related to disease. Did the disease cause the issue or did something else cause this and the disease was secondary? Anthracnose Top Dieback is not the only thing that cause those upper leaves to die prematurely.

Bob Nielsen from Purdue, wrote a good article several years ago talking about leaf senescence and top dieback.

Anthracnose Top Dieback is caused by the same fungus that causes anthracnose stalk rot. You will want to monitor fields for stalk quality by walking fields and pinching stalks or
moving stalks from side to side to gauge stalk strength. Be sure to check different hybrids and various places in the field. Fields with poor stalk strength should be scheduled first for harvest.

You should also gauge fields for lodging from rootworm feeding and also prioritize those fields for harvest. In some places the rootworm feeding and the stalk quality will provide a double whammy in terms of harvest challenges, not to mention our soil conditions. More on soil conditions in a future newsletter.

Events

September 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m. The Boone River Watershed is hosting a water quality field day at the Arliss Nielsen farm, 3150 Hancock Ave, Woodstock, IA. This field day will focus on cover crops, bioreactors, drainage water management and replicated strip trials. The Iowa Soybean Association will provide a meal. The field day is open to all interested persons. Please R.S.V.P. to Bruce Voigts at 515-532-2165.