

SFG Update

Smith Fertilizer & Grain

June 6, 2013

Mark White Knoxville Location Manager



A year ago the planters had all been put away, lots of hay had been put up and we were well into the post spraying season. The prospect for a great crop

was getting better everyday and life was good. Now 12 months later we have been thru just about every kind of weather situation known to man. Drought, floods, high heat, cold, no snow, and then too much snow. Early spring brought talk of the drought lingering another year and then a few weeks later we have flooding that could exceed the floods of 2008. We are either aging faster than we think or these 100 year floods are coming around every 5 or 10 years. What's this all mean? It reminds us that weather is still the one input we have no

control over. We can apply the proper fertilizer, buy the best seed, and keep the weeds out and yet we can't control the amount of rain and when it comes. This makes today's crop insurance programs more valuable than ever. They allow you to safely price a portion of your new crop by limiting your risk should the crop fail. Now here comes the tough question. With all that has happened in the past month when should we price new crop grain? We have new crop beans back above 12 and fall corn above 5 which a month ago would have

triggered sales. Now the conditions have changed with the amount of crop not planted. This is adding more confusion as normally rain makes grain, but this may be one of those few years that this doesn't hold true. Our advice is if you have your crops in you should look at starting marketing with these rallies. The board of trade is no more predictable than the weather and as we deal with a world market, funny things can and will happen. Having a portion of your crop priced at a profitable level is never a bad thing. If you need help with marketing give me a call.

Save the Date:

SFG Pleasantville 20th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, August 24th

Food, Games, Drawings, and Entertainment!



Greg Willer Knoxville Agronomy Manager



Most of the corn is in the ground is at the V1 to V2

stage. With a little warm sunshine it will grow even faster. When the corn is at these early stages, it is important to keep an eye out for Black Cut Worm (BCW) in your corn fields. If your fields are weed free the moths usually will not lay their eggs in that area. BCW will cause the most economic loss in a field when the corn is at the VE-V4 stage. BCW will start feeding on corn when weeds are destroyed because it is the only food source available to them.

According to the Iowa State University Extension office, BCW moths will generally start laying eggs in this area the last week of May. (This can be earlier or later depending on the weather.) BCW larvae are light gray to black in color and are around 1.5" long when fully grown. BCW usually do not winter in Iowa, the adult moths travel strong winds from the south and lay their eggs in areas with a good food source. If you see a

plant cut or leaning over and wilted, there is a good chance you can find the BCW by digging around the area of the plant a couple of inches deep. You should monitor your corn for BCW up to the V5 stage. After this the plant is less susceptible to damage from BCW.

If you think you may have a BCW problem give your SFG agronomist a call and we can check out the field.

Natasha Sadofsky Albia Location Manager



Since the fields are unfortunately a soggy mess, many of you with cattle are looking at ways to maximize your revenue stream from that portion of your operation. With spring turning to summer and as the temperatures climb, it is time to start thinking about ways to minimize heat stress in your cattle as it can have a significant economic impact if not managed properly. Typically cattle on pasture are less susceptible to heat stress since they have the ability to seek shade, water and air movement. Cattle in lots are exposed to more radiant heat from the dirt or concrete and have less ability to get away from the heat and other cattle. Having a plan to manage heat in your lots will help prevent death and performance loss from decreased efficiency and feed

intake. ISU offers five steps to help avoid heat stress in your herd.

- Plan ahead. After cattle get hot, it's too late to prevent problems.
- Don't work cattle when it is hot, this includes in the evening even if it has cooled off a little. Finish working cattle before 9 to 10 a.m. in the summer, and remember that during a heat wave it's best to not work cattle at all. Cattle's core temperature peaks 2 hours after peak environmental temperature and takes at least 6 hours for cattle to dissipate their heat load.
- Provide plenty of fresh, clean water. When it's hot and humid, cattle lose water from increased respiration and perspiration and consuming water is the only way they can cool down. Make sure the water flow is sufficient to keep tanks full, and ensure there's enough space at water tanks (3 inches linear space per head). Introduce new water tanks before a heat event occurs so cattle know where they are.
- Feed 70 percent of the ration in the afternoon. Heat from fermentation in the rumen is a primary source of heat for cattle. When cattle are fed in the morning, peak rumen temperature production occurs

during the heat of the day when they can't get rid of it. By feeding 70 percent of the ration in late afternoon, rumen heat production occurs when it is cooler.

Provide ventilation, shade and/or sprinklers. Environmental temperatures compound the heat load for cattle during a heat wave. Remove objects that are obstructing natural air movement. Indoor cattle will benefit from shade provided by the building as long as ventilation is good. Outdoor cattle will benefit from sprinklers to cool them off. Make sure cattle are used to sprinklers before employing them during a heat wave.

For more information and recommendations from ISU Extension, you can visit their website at www.extension.isu.edu or stop in and visit with your local extension agent.

Here at SFG, we have waterers, waterer parts, and tanks available for purchase. If you're bunk feeding and want to minimize heating of your ration, Hubbard's BULLETPROOF® Bunk Stabilizer is an exceptional option as it is a low inclusion rate additive that you can put in your mixer wagons.

Mark Young Senior Agronomy Manager



Iowa has experienced periods of flooding and ponding as a result of recent rains. SFG agronomists have been scouting fields and evaluating the damage. The extent to which flooding injures corn is determined by several factors including the plant stage of development when flooding occurs, the duration of flooding, and the air and soil temperatures.

Prior to V6, the 6th collar, or when the growing point is near or below the surface, corn can survive only two to four days of flooded conditions. The oxygen supply in the soil is depleted after about 48 hours in a flooded field. Without oxygen, the plant cannot perform critical life sustaining functions; nutrient and water

uptake is impaired and root development is inhibited.

If temperatures are warm during flooding, greater than 77 degrees, plants may not survive 24 hours. Cooler temperatures prolong survival. Once the growing point is above the water level the likelihood for survival improves greatly. Since most of the corn in Iowa has not yet reached the 6th collar stage, there is potential for flooding and ponding injury. Even if flooding doesn't kill plants outright it may have a long term negative impact on crop performance. Excess moisture during the early vegetative stages retards corn root development. As a result, plants may be subject to greater injury during a dry summer because root systems are not sufficiently developed to access available subsoil water. Flooding and ponding can also result in losses of nitrogen through denitrification and leaching.

If flooding in corn is less than 48 hours, crop injury should be limited. To confirm plant survival, have your SFG agronomist check the color of the

growing point, it should be white and cream colored, while a darkening or softening usually precedes plant death. Also look for new leaf growth 3 to 5 days after water drains from the field.

Cooler, wet weather conditions also favor development of seed rots and seedling blights. Seed treatments are usually effective but can provide protection only so long; if seedling development is slowed or delayed 2 or 3 weeks, soil borne pathogens have a much greater opportunity to cause damage. Other disease problems which may become greater risks due to flooding and cool temperatures are corn smut and crazy top. The fungus that causes crazy top depends on saturated soil conditions to infect corn seedlings. There is limited hybrid resistance to these diseases and predicting damage is difficult because disease symptoms do not appear until later in the growing season.

Have your SFG agronomist explain how Nutri Scription can help replace these nutrients that have been lost.

Corey Garrington Agronomy Sales



This planting season has thrown just about everything imaginable at us so far. We came into the spring unsure when to plant due to lack of moisture in the soil. Oh how things have changed ever so vastly since March. We have seen snow in May along with PLENTY of rainfall.

Most fields in my territory have encountered large amounts of rainfall which has allowed water to stand continuously on the fields.

Most recommendations have been to inoculate the seed if soybeans haven't been grown in the field for the past 3-5 years and if the soils have a low PH (below 6.0). A quick rule of thumb is that if a field has never been planted to soybeans or is a field with sandy soils, then it needs to be inoculated every year. This year we also need to take into consideration the drought conditions from last summer/fall along with the crop ground that has had continuous water standing in the field due to losing so much bacteria in the soil.

There is a mutual benefit in the relation-

ship between the Bradyrhizobium bacteria and the soybean plant. For nitrogen fixation to occur, Bradyrhizobium bacteria need to be present in the soil. The plant, in turn, provides the bacteria's carbohydrate supply. This is a relationship where both the bacteria and plant benefit from each other. When inoculating, you are simply adding Bradyrhizobium bacteria back into the soil to increase nodulation. According to Iowa State University when using inoculants, yield increases can vary and potentially increase yield up to 4.4 bushels per acre.

If you still have beans left to plant I would highly consider adding an inoculant. Please contact your local SFG agronomy salesman with any questions.

For more articles and market information please visit our website at www.sfgiowa.com.

Brad Kaufman Agronomy Sales



With the recent heavy rains, side dressing additional nitrogen has become a popular topic. Many have seen the yield benefits of split applying nitrogen and plan to side dress. There are a couple products we can add to the nitrogen to boost corn yields on top of the yield increase seen from the

split application on nitrogen. These additives are Reinforce K and Accomplish.

Reinforce K is a 5-0-20-13 Sulfur. Personally, I haven't had experience with applying Reinforce K with nitrogen. I have however had lots of experience with Loveland products and the results have been right on with how they promoted them. This year we are also putting in Reinforce K and Accomplish plots to have our own data. I have spoken with several people who have added Reinforce K to their nitrogen side dress application. They are seeing on average a 8-10 bushel yield increase. They have been using one quart of Reinforce K with the liquid N at a cost of \$2.78/acre, making the return on investment tremendous.

The "Cadillac" program is to add Accomplish in the tank along with Reinforce K. This program adds about another \$10/acre to the final cost. There are limited yield results using Accomplish and Reinforce K together, but the results that we have are very attractive. Accomplish works in the soil and helps to release nutrients from the soil. So in short, we should be able to take tissue samples and see a difference in nutrients in the plant tissue.

I think adding Reinforce K to a side dress program is a very smart decision. A great option for application is using drops on our Hagie. If you would like to try a plot with Reinforce K and Accomplish contact your local SFG agronomist.

Taylor Banks Agronomy Sales



Most growers around the Centerville area were running strong until this week.

Since then we have all stayed busy keeping the rain gauge dumped out! The Centerville area has received 6 plus inches of rain and with that has come some questions and concerns from growers. Many growers ask about the issues that go with getting the rest of their corn planted this late in the season. Some common questions are: What to do if re-plant has to be done? When to abandon corn and plant beans? All of these questions have tricky answers. When it comes to planting &/ or deciding to re-plant corn at this time of year. I would recommend going to a shorter season variety to insure

better dry down of that corn come harvest. I feel at this point it is a little early to abandon corn and go to beans. Most area agronomists feel the same way. If beans are going to be planted on ground that has anhydrous ammonia already applied, I would strongly suggest inoculating the beans to help counteract any nodulation problems the beans may face due to excessive available nitrogen in the soil. The weather pattern we have been experiencing has created new challenges for growers. I encourage anyone with questions to contact their local SFG agronomist.