
June 13, 2014

HAIL DAMAGE UPDATES

A few operators have chosen to replant corn. Farmers need to be aware that when this happened in June in the Adams area a couple years ago, Southern Corn Rootworms were attracted to these fields and some producers that had some promising 80 bushel dryland corn (planted by June 24th) had a lot of down corn. Dr. Lance Meinke at UNL says it is not a sure thing, but Southern Corn Rootworms are already here this year. He would recommend scouting for adult beetle activity from seedling stage through silking which will be important in the June planted fields this year.

For those adding to soybean stands, seed treatments with fungicides are highly recommended. Soil pathogens can be active under wet, cool conditions and with decomposing beans from hail. Most often it's not worth the added risk, so fungicide treated beans are essentially added insurance on replant when the time clock is ticking. Soybeans can be a good option in hailed out wheat fields with a June planting. With the lateness in the year, consider 15 inch rows or drilled beans.

On Thursday, June 12th, I learned that Amylase and Brown Mid Rib Corn (grazing corn or enhanced silage corn) are not insurable corn in Nebraska. So producers that had hail insurance and corn herbicides down, especially with corn post-emergence products, now have new forage options that were not being discussed before on a few of these totaled out parcels. So now the issue is seed supply for cattle producers or where can you find BMR corn. This certainly is an excellent option for anyone thinking about a salvage operation and have cattle. Talk with your adjuster if this fits your situation to get the clearance.

Dr. Bruce Anderson and Paul Hay of the University of Nebraska Extension have both been consulted about the BMR choice and they believe it to be a sound practice with the improved and enhanced BMR varieties available today. With a mid-June planting we look at BMR varieties in the 105-110 day range. There is some debate at the normal corn planting time in April of field corn or BMR corn which is best. With the highest quality silage the goal, be aware BMR corn does have a little higher risk to lodging due to the enhanced gene trait. It's also an excellent grazing corn choice.

Should fungicide be mixed with herbicides when post-spraying for weeds in severely hail damaged fields? A note from Syngenta was received by applicators to not do this. Depending on hail severity and crop growth stage, it is generally not recommended to use an adjuvant or mix herbicides with the fungicide. When plants are under stress and overloading after a hail event, it would likely cause more issues, plus does it pay anyway?

There is little to no research data from fungicide trials conducted on hailed corn this early in the season at these early growth stages. Most of the replicated University trials were done much later in the season (V12-R2) and results are probably not representative of our current scenario.

Many of the diseases that are favored by wounding are not controlled with foliar fungicides, such as those caused by bacteria (especially Goss's wilt and blight), common smut, and stalk rots. Furthermore, foliar diseases that can be managed with foliar fungicides, such as gray leaf spot and southern rust, do NOT need wounds for infection. The development of some of these diseases following a hail event might more likely be attributed to the rain and periods of increased relative humidity that accompanied the storm rather than the hail itself.

For more information on these topics, go to cropwatch.unl.edu on the internet.

2014 Acreage Reporting

The Saline County FSA Office is currently taking acreage reports for the 2014 crop year. When you are finished planting all of your crops, please call the office to make an appointment to certify. Every participant is required to report the crops, types, planting dates, irrigation practice, and shares. In addition, any hayed or grazed land will need to have the grass type notated (example: brome, native). Reminder: Deadline to certify crops with FSA is July 15th.

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses during the normal grazing periods for covered livestock due to drought conditions. The LFP payments for drought are equal to 60 percent of the monthly feed cost as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. The number of monthly program payments is based on the drought rating for the physical location of the farm as determined by the U.S. Drought Monitor. Payment can equate to a one, three, four, or five month payments.

The program is retroactive to October 1, 2011. Due to drought conditions in 2012, Saline County qualified for a four month payment. Contact your local FSA office to obtain more information or sign-up for program benefits today.

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