



..... STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSES MOUTH

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As I start writing this week's edition there is evidence of the farmer's itch setting in. Rolling stalk choppers are going and I would bet a lot of you have followed or passed trucks pulling one or even two anhydrous ammonia tanks. If you think about it we have really experienced some pretty amazing weather in February and March for the most part. We probably are a little spoiled, but we know that each day like this past week is closer to planting season and stable weather. As our farmers are getting prepared for that season it is not unreasonable to start thinking of crop management. Let's talk some beans this week!

As I indicated above our farmers are getting that planting itch and I would bet that many are likely readying those planters and it won't be long till we see them out in the fields. I understand from preliminary acreage reports that we may see more soybeans go in this year (even more than corn), and it will also be time to scout those soybean plants and the environment they are in? I know that most farmer would like, but do not have, a crystal ball because it would be nice to know how long we have before we need to be looking for, diseases or weeds. Believe me that time goes fast. It would also be nice to know what cultural practices might affect disease development. We might have something even better than that ball.

This past year a new online tool from University of Nebraska was offered timely pest management information, recommended tasks, and UNL research results to tackle Nebraska's primary soybean pests. This may be a tool that would be of great benefit to you. It may be worth a look. Developed by UNL with financial support from the Nebraska Soybean Board, the "Soybean Management Calendar" is available at <http://cropwatch.unl.edu/soycal>. This tool is organized in a way that makes sense to growers for timely decision-making, Disease, insect, and weed information is available in a calendar format with a "Current Tasks" section that outlines pest management steps to focus on now. This management tool is a really good means to help growers quickly identify when different pests are likely to be attacking their crop and what to do about it.

Pest management involves a complex web of interactions among weed, disease, and insect pressures, cultural practices and weather. SoyCal creates an information hub identifying which pressures are greatest at that point in the season and what steps producers can take to address them. It includes short management tips, photos to aid in pest identification, video demonstrations, and links to more detailed information in <http://cropwatch.unl.edu/>. The Exploratory Research Section boils down results of research projects funded by the Nebraska Soybean Board so growers can implement the findings that apply to their operations. The research covers a range of topics in disease, weed, and insect management and soybean production.

Talking about pests, I have some news that may be of interest to our soybean producers. so the following information caught my eye. There is some good news on the pesticide front. Let's take a closer look at these advances. It is apparent that soybean farmers have another low-volatile dicamba-tolerant herbicide to use in 2017 for soybeans. The new chemical is called FeXapan and is a new dicamba formulation that significantly slices off-target movement potential compared with older formulations of dicamba. The Environmental Protection Agency has registered DuPont's FeXapan herbicide plus VaporGrip Technology for use in 2017. Vapor Grip is an additive that reduces volatilization, something important in today's world.

DuPont officials say it is part of what they call a complete "Acre Solution" with Pioneer soybeans that have the Roundup Ready 2 Xtend trait. I am not sure if other hybrid companies have that trait, but you may want to check that out. The idea is to supply an integrated seed and herbicide program approach, including pre-emergence residual herbicides, works to maximize efficiency and protect yields. FeXapan's spectrum includes herbicide-resistant weeds like kochia, marehail, and amaranthus species like waterhemp and Palmer amaranth. Something I know people are looking for.

FeXapan joins two other dicamba-based herbicides that have been approved for use on soybeans with the Roundup Ready 2 Xtend trait. Federal regulators have approved Monsanto's Xtendimax with VaporGrip. Its label includes nozzle specifications and currently allows no tank-mix combinations. Also approved is BASF's Engenia, another dicamba formulation that is lower in volatility than existing ones. Engenia is a new solution for dicamba-tolerant soybeans. They say Engenia has 70% lower relative volatility when compared with Clarity, an existing dicamba formulation. It should be pointed out that Engenia's label also currently restricts tank-mixes and nozzle selection. Engenia herbicide is claimed to have an additional, effective site of action for more than 200 broadleaf weeds, including glyphosate-resistant species, This broad-spectrum solution is said to control the toughest broadleaf weeds like Palmer amaranth, waterhemp, marehail, velvetleaf, morningglory and giant ragweed. There are currently 16 species of glyphosate-resistant weeds in the U.S., with 38 states affected by at least one species. Monsanto also has developed another herbicide for its dicamba-tolerant system BUT that hasn't yet received federal approval. Roundup Xtend is a premix of glyphosate and a low-volatile formulation of dicamba.

In news that effects these new pesticides the EPA has approved six herbicide tank mixes and 27 adjuvants for Monsanto's Xtendimax with VaporGrip Technology. Previously, the TTI11004 nozzle was the only nozzle allowed with Xtendimax. Now, this announcement brings 20 additional nozzles for use with this product. All approved tank-mix products and nozzles for XtendiMax with VaporGrip Technology are listed at www.xtendimaxapplicationrequirements.com. As a reminder, only the tank-mix products or nozzles listed on established tank-mix websites are considered lawful. These additions listed on the website are an extension of the label. Now be honest with me! How many of you are thinking about getting that planter out?

The preceding information comes from the research and personal observations of the writer, which may or may not reflect the views of UNL or Nebraska Extension. For more further information on these or other topics contact D. A. Lienemann, Nebraska Extension Educator for Webster County in Red Cloud, (402) 746-3417 or email: dlienemann2@unl.edu or on the web at: <http://extension.unl.edu/statewide/webster>