

August 18, 2015

## SOYBEAN MANAGEMENT FIELD DAY

Nitrogen, Fungicides, Insecticides - The Soybean Management Field Days have incorporated field research into each location across the state. University of Nebraska Plant Pathologists shared results from the 2014 trial during the session at the Kent Moravec Farm near Greenwood on August 14<sup>th</sup>. When fungicide treatments we used at V8, R2 and R3 growth stages of the soybeans there was a documented yield response. This was true for insecticides also and for the combination of both. Before you make orders for your crop, you may want to know that the improved yields did not pay the treatment costs. Integrated pest management approaches to insecticide use (spraying only when the pest reaches threshold populations) did result in yield increases that more than covered treatment costs. There were no visual differences in the 2015 plots at the field location.

Root Rots- We continue to see root rots affect soybean stands. This year the most active problems have been Pythium blight and Phytophthora blight in seedlings and Phytophthora through the season. Fungicide seed treatments are recommended to keep root rots in check.

Reading the Soybean Canopy- We are at the adaption time of canopy sensors in corn for aiding in nitrogen needs and clues to other potential growth problems. Studies on site continue to evaluate how canopy readings can be used to enhance soybean yields. There is no clear recommendation at this stage of the work.

Financial Outlook- Tina Barrett had some excellent tips on dealing with the downtrend in farm income, increasing debt load, production costs and family living costs. Income adjustments for tax purposes made in recent years are going to be part of farm expenses during this downtrend. There are no easy answers. Tina has released a very thoughtful article on 2016 lease arrangements which I have added to our Gage County Extension Website. [Gage.unl.edu](http://Gage.unl.edu)

Smart Soybean Fertility- Smart soybean fertility starts and ends with smart use of soil test information. Brian Krienke, University of Nebraska Soils Extension Educator pointed out how to fine tune our understanding of soil test data. Using sound basic soil test decisions is the best way to reduce costs of the fertilization program both for corn and soybeans without sacrificing yields.

Soybean Irrigation- Rainfall in August and Early September is what makes dryland soybeans yield the most. It should not surprise us that irrigation shows the same trend. Use marginal irrigation early and full irrigation during pod fill was more than twice as efficient in producing yields as full irrigation all season long.

Measuring Pesticides- Fred Whitford of Purdue University added fun to the 2015 Soybean Field Days by sharing errors which can occur in pesticide measurements. I have been using some of his work for two years in Pesticide Certification and have added sections on flow meter use. Most farmers in Nebraska rely of the accuracy of flow meters both to measure water and to measure pesticides.

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