In The Field

2017 Private Pesticide Applicator Dates

Last training in Knox County is February 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bloomfield Community Center.

For a complete list of training sessions in the state go online at http://pested.unl.edu/classes, where applicators will find pesticide education sites for private applicators listed by county.

There is also the option of becoming certified or recertified through completion of a self-study course, either hard copy or online. The hard copy self-study manual is available at local extension offices, and the online course can be purchased at http://marketplace.unl.edu by going to the pesticide education section. The cost for both self-study courses is $60.

Considering Non-Bt Traited Corn in 2017? Plan for More Scouting

We have heard comments from several people this winter who are considering planting non-Bt traited corn hybrids in 2017, primarily to reduce seed costs due to the lower market value of corn. Additionally, some people may be planting types of corn that do not offer Bt traits, such as popcorn or white corn.

This may be an appropriate strategy for some people, but our main concern as entomologists is that you plan for the additional pest management practices (and associated costs) you may need to adopt, given this decision.

First, you should develop a plan to scout your non-Bt traited corn fields for insects during the growing season—either hire a crop consultant or identify someone in your farm operation who will do this. The risk of insect injury to each field is hard to predict, but some fields will be damaged every year, dependent on cropping history, weather, and other factors. Regular monitoring during the growing season is critical to be able to respond appropriately if damaging populations of insects occur on your farm.

If you plan to use insecticides rather than Bt traits to manage insects, plan how these will be applied. In the case of managing corn rootworms at planting time, either granular or liquid insecticides may be used. Is your planter set up to accomplish this? Post-plant insecticide applications may be applied by ground, air or chemigated. Do you have the equipment to do this or will you contract to get this done? Do you have a pesticide applicator's license if you plan to apply insecticides yourself?

If you're planting non-BT corn this year, take time now to review your pest management strategy, including who will be responsible for scouting pests, like this western corn rootworm.

Additional CropWatch articles in the future with more details on managing corn rootworm, European corn borer, and western bean cutworm in non-Bt traited corn hybrids can be found at http://cropwatch.unl.edu/.

Nebraska Crop Budgets - 2017

The 2017 Nebraska Crop Budgets include 73 crop production budgets for 15 crops as well as information on crop budgeting procedures, machinery operation and ownership costs, materials and service prices, and a crop budget production cost summary. This year's guide includes four new budgets for dryland corn production in eastern Nebraska.

Crop production budgets are grouped by crop and provided below in two formats: PDF and an editable Excel that allows you to customize this for your operation. A Nebraska Extension publication, 2017 Nebraska Crop Budgets (http://cropwatch.unl.edu/budgets) includes all the budgets in a print format with a discussion of how they were developed.

These budgets were developed and edited by Robert Klein, extension western Nebraska crops specialist; Roger Wilson, extension farm management/enterprise budget analyst; Jessica Groskopf, agricultural economics extension educator; and Jim Jansen, agricultural economics extension educator. Contributing to the budgets in their specialty areas were: Robert Wright, extension entomologist; Tamra Jackson-Ziems, Loren Giesler, and Stephen Wegulo, extension plant pathologists; Paul Jasa, extension engineer; and James Schild, extension educator in Scotts Bluff and Morrill counties.

Note: These budget projections were created using assumptions thought to be valid for many producers in Nebraska; however, each farming operation is unique. These budgets are being released in both Adobe PDF and Excel worksheet formats. The worksheet format allows producers to modify them to match their specific situation. The danger of releasing a tool that can subsequently be modified is that there is no way to verify whether alterations were made or unrealistic data was entered. Users of this tool are responsible for independently verifying all results prior to relying on them.

2017 Nebraska Crop Budgets

(Budgets are grouped by crop and include multiple files.)

CROPPING SYSTEM	PDF FORMAT	EXCEL FORMAT
Alfalfa Establishment	PDF	Excel
Alfalfa Production	PDF	Excel
Corn Dryland	PDF	Excel
Corn Irrigated	PDF	Excel
Cover Crops	PDF	Excel
Dry Beans	PDF	Excel
Grain Sorghum	PDF	Excel
Miscellaneous Crops	PDF	Excel
Soybeans	PDF	Excel
Sugarbeet	PDF	Excel
Sunflower	PDF	Excel
Wheat	PDF	Excel
Tables of power, machinery, labor, and input costs used to develop these budgets	PDF	