June 22, 2012

HERBICIDE-RESISTANT WEED MANAGEMENT FIELD DAYS

Limiting the development and spread of herbicide-resistant weeds will be the focus of two field days to be held Wednesday, July 11th at Big Springs and Thursday, July 12th at David City. The featured guest speaker will be Jason Norsworthy, associate professor in the University of Arkansas Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences. Norsworthy, a national speaker on the problem of herbicide resistance, will address how glyphosate-resistant weeds are changing agriculture in the southern U.S. and what that may mean for weed control in the northern Great Plains and Nebraska.

Programs at each site will begin with registration at 9:00 a.m., a welcome, and tours beginning at 9:30 a.m. The keynote speaker will be during the noon hour, with the program expected to end by 1:30 p.m.

The field studies on the tour will allow you to see resistant weed responses to increasing rates of glyphosate. UNL weed scientists are studying various herbicide programs and their effectiveness at controlling a glyphosate-resistant weed population. See how Liberty Link Systems can be used to sustainably manage weeds.

There will be an update on Dicamba-Resistant Soybeans. View demonstrations of how dicamba-resistant soybeans can provide another post-emergence tool for weed management. See the impact of carrier rates on several herbicides. The field day will also address the importance of effective herbicide applications to manage the development of weed resistance.

Sponsored by UNL Extension and the Nebraska Soybean Board, programs at both sites will be similar, except where local challenges are addressed, such as glyphosate-resistant giant ragweed at David City and glyphosate-resistant kochia at Big Springs.

We need to take steps to avoid future weed control crashes. A farmer with glyphosate resistant giant ragweed in southeast NE has now spent $70-$80/acre in throwing the proverbial herbicide “kitchen sink” at the weed and still got terrible control. A crop advisor in Nebraska this year said some of his customers have $60 per acre in herbicides and applications so far and will be applying more due to lack of control. We hear reports of people spending $120+/acre in the southern United States and still getting variable control. How many years can a producer spend $70-$120/acre in herbicides if resistance develops, because of cheap weed control for the past 5-10 years when using glyphosate alone?

Better integrated strategies will be needed to control weeds in the future. Weeds have been around a lot longer than us and can eventually adapt or change as a result of extreme selection pressure.

At David City, from Highway 15 turn west on East A Street, then continue west for two blocks and look for the UNL field signs. The event is free but pre-registration is required by Friday, July 6th, so plans can be made for the complimentary meal, teaching resources, and tour logistics. Register online at http://agronomy.unl.edu/weedresistmgt.

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