

CROP ALERT

September 18, 2015

Mike Stanyard, Regional Agronomist, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Winter Wheat Planting

Winter wheat planting has begun this week albeit spotty. The first of the early planted early maturity group soybeans have been harvested this week and I am seeing lots of yellow soybean fields across the region.

Some reminders on wheat planting:

1 to 1.3 million seeds per acre right now. Many of our later fields after soybeans will have to jump to 1.8 to 2 million seeds per acre in late October. See September's Ag Focus article on calculating pounds per acre based in seeds per pound, (<http://wnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/submission.php?id=500&crumb=grains|3>) Research from Peter Johnson out of Ontario has shown an average of 7.5 bu/acre increase from using phosphorus in the starter <http://fieldcropnews.com/2012/09/seed-placed-starter-delivers-in-winter-wheat/>. This helps with fall tillering and winter survivorship.

Soybean Harvest Aids

There have also been lots questions about herbicide recommendations to help dry down soybeans to get wheat planted earlier. There are a couple products we can apply as harvest aids but it is usually only for weed control not speed up plant maturation. We can kill the soybean plants earlier but many of the herbicide label restrictions do not allow application until plants are fully mature. See article out of Michigan State, <http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/preharvest-herbicide-options-for-soybeans-weeds-may-be-an-issue>. As an example: Gramoxone can't be applied until 65% of the pods are brown or seed moisture is less than 30%. It also has a 15 day preharvest interval. Clarity can't be applied if you plan on planting winter wheat!

Stalk Rots in Corn

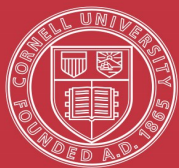
Stalk rot inoculum is usually present most of the season but cannot infect healthy plants. However, accumulated stresses and plant maturation weakens the plant and allows the fungi to invade and spread. I have already detected infections in fields that did not get enough nitrogen and the leaves turned brown and burned up (see picture). Photosynthesis was reduced and plants were using all available carbohydrates for grain fill. The plant cannibalizes itself to stay alive and fill the ear. If stalk rot infested fields are located, these fields should be harvested first. Infected plants will mature quicker and are more susceptible to lodging.



Soybean Aphids



Aphid numbers really blossomed as many of our fields were in late R5 and into R6. It was not economical to run through the beans at this stage of maturity and most growers stayed out of the beans. I am still finding some SBA out there where plants are still green. However, there are a bunch of ladybeetles in all stages particularly the pupae (see picture). Looks like there will be lots of overwintering adults in the region to control early SBA populations next spring.



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New York September Crop Forecast

The USDA-NASS has released the crop production forecast for September, according to Blair Smith, State Statistician of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), New York Field Office. The latest survey was conducted during the last week of August and the first week of September.

Corn production is forecast at 99.2 million bushels, down 1 percent from 2014. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are forecast to average 148.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from the 2014 average. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 670 thousand acres, down 1 percent from 2014. **Soybean** production is forecast at 14.3 million bushels, down 3 percent from 2014. Based on September 1 conditions, yield is forecast to average 45.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 317 thousand acres, down 10 thousand acres from 2014.

Weed Problems



I continue to get calls on **marestail** control failures that are very obvious in soybeans right now. These are not localized but can be seen in Niagara County all the way across to Seneca County. This weed has not only been confirmed resistant to glyphosate but also sulfonyl urea herbicides in the Midwest. Another weed that I want folks to watch out for right now is **tall waterhemp**. This is a new weed for WNY that we saw on the Seneca/Wayne county border last year. I just walked some soybean fields in Seneca County where it was not controlled (see picture). We will address both of these situations during the congresses this winter.

Pro Farmer & USDA Crop Forecast

The Pro Farmer 2015 corn and soybean crop estimates for the Midwestern states can be found at <http://www.agweb.com/mobile/article/pro-farmer-2015-corn-soybean-crop-estimates-NAA-pro-farmer-editors/>. Pro Farmer pegs 2015 U.S. corn crop at 13.323 billion bu.; average yield of 164.3 bu. per acre and the soybean crop at 3.887 billion bu.; average yield of 46.5 bu. per acre. Iowa had the highest corn estimate at 181 bushels per acre. Nebraska topped the soybean averages at 55.5 bushels.

Last week, USDA lowered the crop forecast. Corn production is now forecast at 13.6 billion bushels, down 4 percent from last year's record production. Based on conditions as of Sept. 1, yields are expected to average 167.5 bushels per acre, down 3.5 bushels from 2014. If realized, this will be the second highest yield and third largest production on record for the United States. <http://www.ncga.com/news-and-resources/news-stories/article/2015/09/corn-condition-unchanged-as-harvest-begins>.

The USDA's soybean estimate included a slight increase in yield to 47.1 bu./acre.

The NWNY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops program has a Field Crops Specialist position available.

To view the position description and apply visit <https://cornellu.taleo.net/careersection/10164/jobdetail.ftl?job=28922> prior to September 27, 2015. Please feel free to share with others that may be interested in the position.