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Newsletter Title

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Newsletter Introduction

It is my goal to issue periodic newsletters throughout the growing season to keep you informed on what I see in the field or of other issues that I may think will be of interest to you. At this time, I have not decided on a newsletter title nor do I know how often one will be written. Most likely they will be irregular, based on how dynamic the growing season is.

Many times the newsletters will be based on questions that I have received that indicate that perhaps other patrons have those same questions. I will also discuss topics that I hear when talking to other growers. As always, topics of interest or concern that you have are always welcome.

Goss's Wilt

You have most likely heard a lot of talk this last summer about Goss's Wilt, especially in the Marshall to Redwood Falls area. Goss's Wilt is definitely a topic of discussion with every seed person I have talked to this fall.

Goss's Wilt is a bacterial disease that resembles other leaf diseases on corn. This disease overwinters on corn stubble, so it is more troublesome in

corn on corn acres, but rotated corn is not immune. Because it overwinters on corn stover, tillage is a good defense against Goss's Wilt with rotation being equally important.

Goss's Wilt will take advantage of damaged corn to propagate infection. This is why those in the most wind damaged areas of the state saw a more widespread infection. There is no treatment

for this disease other than the cultural practices mentioned before – since this disease is caused by bacteria, the use of Headline, Stratego or other fungicides will not be effective.

Goss's Wilt... continued

Another tactic for managing Goss's Wilt is to plant resistant corn varieties. Unfortunately, not all seed companies have been focusing on this disease since it was, until recently, a disease of the western corn belt. As a result, most corn genetics have some innate susceptibility to Goss's Wilt.

Be skeptical of a corn line that has a Goss's Wilt rating this year but did not last year.

Also keep in mind that a new variety in 2012 that has a Goss's Wilt rating is rated only because the background genetics has been exposed to Goss's Wilt. Because of that exposure, it is known how it reacts to the

disease, but once it is crossed again, the Goss's expression will potentially change.

The good news: next year the growing conditions may not allow Goss's Wilt to manifest itself.

Soybean Cyst Nematode

I think everyone knows about SCN so I will not go into much detail here other than to say that it is time to get to know what your SCN levels are again.

There can be up to 30% yield loss before any SCN symptoms show themselves in the field, so diagnosing yield problems can be

difficult without knowing SCN levels.

Why do I bring this up again? I was investigating a field that did not do very well at all this year – even taking into consideration the lousy weather. The underlying problem with this field was SCN. The field had never been

tested before and levels were counted at over 20,000 eggs/cc.

The only way to regain productivity in this field is to not raise soybeans. Any production boosting tactic used will simply be overwhelmed by this high of a SCN count.

Know your SCN levels!!



Kudzu Bug

Well, we have another one coming. The picture at the left is of the newly introduced kudzu bug. As the name implies, the kudzu bug feeds on the kudzu plant, which became agriculturally

important when soybean rust was first seen in the U.S.

The kudzu bug was first seen in the Southeastern part of the U.S. only a few years ago and in states

like North Carolina. The bug has found the numerous soybean fields in that part of the country and have traveled widely.

So far they have been only a problem in the

The Kudzu Bug...continued

Southeast but the hardiness of this bug and the many acres of soybeans planted across the country only will help it spread.

Not much is known yet about how serious this bug will be agronomically. It can be controlled by insecticides, but how many generations per year they will have, the timing of infestation or resistance management will be looked at over the next season. There

are some concerns about insecticide coverage when spraying late season soybeans.

A few weeks ago a report was released of the kudzu bug being found in Minnesota.

This very well could be the next 'hot topic' in the coming year. Be aware of it and be ready to deal with it.



The Kudzu bug

Instinct Nitrogen Additive

I plan on attending an agronomy conference next month and one of the seminars being held will cover the use of Instinct.

This additive, as some of you have heard, is supposed to help the soil retain nitrogen and keep it from being lost to leaching or denitrification.

Instinct has gotten a lot of press this last season and most of

what I have heard about it came from the company sales reps or the distributors marketing the product.

I will follow up in the next newsletter on the independent trials that have been conducted and see if there have been any independently verified benefits from using the additive.

"A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new."

-Albert Einstein