

The Crop Advisor

Eastern Iowa Crop Report

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Stalk Quality;

This is a year when stalk quality may become a very big issue. I want to strongly urge each of you to consider an early harvest. The stalks at this point are very soft and may not withstand long weeks of rain or wind. The plants that have the most disease infection can easily be lodged just above the crown of the plant.

I would also like to strongly suggest not leaving this crop in the field to dry. Strongly consider running your driers.

Corn Yield Estimates;

For those of you whom I typically do Corn yield estimates. This will be the first year in many that I will not be giving Corn yield estimates. Typically when doing corn yield guesses I under estimate yield due to the late grain fill that happens in the month of August and September. This year however, with the disease volume that is being observed in my area, I know I will over estimate yields with the standard yield estimation methods and here is why.

In the areas of Ear Diameter;

The variance on a Black layered ear versus the one that has not Black Layered in the same field and the same row is currently varying from -4% to -23%.

In the area of Kernel depth;

Kernel depths are varying from -6% to -30%.

In the area of Bottom width of the seed;

Seed width is varying from -3% to a -60%.

The most concerning in my observations is decrease in ear shank size;

The ear shank size is varying from -3% to a -60%. This variance is why you can have the same Kernels around multiplied by the kernels up the row then divided by 90,000, 80,000 or 70,000 depending upon hybrid type and still have a very inaccurate yield guess.

Diplodia ear rot becoming more common in south east Iowa:

Some quick observations:

- 1) Wet and humid conditions in the three weeks after silking favor this disease.
- 2) Damage is often worse in field edges.
- 3) it can get pretty bad in moderate to high residue corn on corn.
- 4) Hybrid susceptibility often varies from field to field, planting date to planting date and year to year.

If you have a high % of infected ears (3%+):

I would strongly suggest NOT binning the grain and would get rid of the grain as soon as possible.

Sudden Death Syndrome;

Sudden Death Syndrome has raised its ugly head in this part of the state. Once the last trifoliolate emerged the game was on for the plants that were spring inoculated with the sudden death fusarium. The plants that are currently affected by sudden death were infected early in the spring due to the cool, wet conditions that the seed was planted in.

Once the soybean plants began to pump Nitrate nitrogen for seed fill, the soybean plant no longer protected the leaves and the disease took over. Some fields have only slight infection while others in this area are severely affected by the disease.

Soybean Yield estimates;

Soybean yields in some varieties might be very good if they were not hit hard by disease.

If you have 8 plants per foot of row on 15 inch beans than you could use a multiplier of 1.05 bushels per pod for a conservative estimate or 1.25 bushels per pod if the seed size of those same beans is large.

Every soybean plant can potentially place 12 beans at each node. Not all plants do this yet the potential still exists.