



Donovan Farmers Co-op Elevator, Inc.

Agronomic Update – Thursday, July 6th, 2017

Is anyone else having a hard time believing that it is July? Many things have taken place in the last month. For the most part, our crops are up, growing, taking in vital nutrients, and determining what we will see this fall in the combine. In this agronomic update, I will go over what I have been seeing in the country side while scouting, in-season management decisions that can still be made to capture bushels, and how all of this relates to yield.

In-season Management Considerations & Local Watch-outs

Scouting Overview

While walking fields this past week, our crop staging is all over the place. Corn is anywhere from V7 to V15 and soybeans are ranging between V2 to R2. Like every other year, weather early on in the growing season, sets the stage for what is to come in the following months. So far, Mother Nature has given us our fair share of trouble.

I have seen some disease/damage start to show in both corn and soybeans, along with a decent amount of pest pressure. The most prevalent pests so far are stink bugs and Japanese beetles in both corn and soybeans. In corn, I have run across common rust, leaf blight, holcus spot, and damage due to wind and weather. In soybeans, I have noticed insect feeding from bean leaf beetles and Japanese beetles, bacteria leaf blight, and damage due to wind and weather.



What is most concerning to me at the moment, as far as pest and disease pressure is concerned, would be the amount of Japanese beetles and stink bugs I have seen. Japanese beetles are usually found in pockets and can do a significant amount of damage in a short amount of time. Silk clipping is the number one way they lower yield. Considering we are about a week or so out from our first silks appearing, it is important to be paying attention to the population of pests in your fields. Stink bugs limit yield in soybeans by feeding on pods. I will be doing net sweeps throughout the next couple of weeks to determine if we are at economic threshold.

In-season Corn Management

V7 to V15 is a crucial time with in a corn plants life. Between these stages the plant starts to ramp up nutrient uptake, kernel row and width are determined, production of bio-mass (increase in sunlight absorption=more sugar=more yield), brace roots are starting to develop, and the growing point continues to move up the plant as the bottom internodes elongate. At this point we are “popping collars” every 2-3 days depending on heat.

Some things to consider when thinking about in season management:

1. What does the pressure look like in my fields?
2. How do my hybrids respond to management? (Is it economically sound?)
3. What is the history of your field look like? Know disease, pests, ect?
4. Crop rotation?

Depending on your answers to the above questions, you can benefit from many in season management options. Fungicide, insecticide, and micronutrients are some of the options that can help you keep the potential bushels you have in the field. Again, dependent on what your scenario looks like, it may or may not make sense to make an application. Our next window for optimum application will be around tassel time. Making plans now, will help drive success this fall. For another opinion on whether or not your field would benefit from some of these applications, please feel free to reach out.

In-season Soybean Management

From V2, our soybean plants have started to move momentum of growth from the seed and cotyledons to fixating it own nitrogen through its nodules. The soybean plant will continue to produce more nodules up to the R5-R6 range. The number of nodes that a soybean plant will potentially produce, is determined at V5. Just as we talked about in corn, we still have a lot of time to capture or help secure more bushels.

One thing I did not touch on in my scouting overview, is the prevalence of deficiencies in soybeans. I am starting to see some manganese deficiencies pop up around the county. The number one way to see what your plants are lacking, is through tissue sampling at specific times of the year. This can help us make a more accurate recommendation and make sure that plant is getting specifically what it needs.

Looking into your next post pass on soybeans, whether that include herbicides or not, there are few things your soybeans could benefit from having in the tank (insecticide, fungicide, and micronutrients). We do a really good job at looking at the different “economic thresholds” from insect to insect. We do not do such a great job at looking at how this pest effect a plant all together. Putting insecticide, especially with the Japanese beetle and stink bug pressure I am seeing, is a economically friendly option to help maintain some of those bushels. Depending on what your tissue samples show, it may also make sense to have a micronutrient package put on that plant as well. Lastly, fungicide can help keep that plant healthier, happier, and continue to fill pods through out the rest of the growing season.

Final Considerations

Overall, I would say between our early and late planted fields, we still have potential for an average to good crop in corn. Soybeans always surprise me. Our early planted soybeans (April) will be a good crop, anything planted after that second week in May, the jury is still out on. With the recent rain, I think they will continue to improve.

As stated numerous times in this article, we are in the business of growing bushels. It is our responsibility as your trusted advisors to help you capture and maintain those bushels through facts and solid recommendations. If you would like a more in depth look or understanding as to what is going on in your fields, please be sure to reach out. With the way markets are currently sitting, it is important we still strive to make the most of every acre while being economically sound.

Thank you!

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