



WEEKLY CROP UPDATE

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Volume 17, Issue 22

August 14, 2009

Vegetable Crops

Vegetable Crop Insects - *Joanne Whalen*,
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Voliam Flexi (from Syngenta)

The label has been recently expanded to include Brassicas, cucurbits, fruiting veggies and leafy veggies. Please be sure to read the supplemental as well as full federal label for use rates and restrictions. A copy of both labels must be in your possession at the time of application: <http://www.cdms.net/LDat/Ld8NH003.pdf>.

Cabbage

Continue to sample for cabbage looper, diamondback larvae, armyworms and Harlequin bug. Although the pyrethroids will provide control of Harlequin bugs they are not effective on diamondback. So be sure to scout and select controls options based on the complex of insects present in the field.

Lima Beans

Continue to scout for spider mites, stink bugs and lygus bugs. Be sure to sample for corn earworm larvae as soon as pin pods are present. A treatment will be needed if you find one corn earworm larvae per 6 ft of row. With the increase in corn earworm catches, especially to our south, we can expect to see an increase in larval populations by next week.

Melons

Continue to scout all melons for aphids, cucumber beetles, and spider mites. We

continue to see an increase in aphid populations. Treatments should be applied before populations explode and leaf curling occurs.

Peppers

In areas where corn borers are being caught in local traps, fields should be sprayed on a 7-day schedule for corn borer control. As soon as corn borer trap catches increase to above 10 per night, a 5 to 7-day schedule may be needed. Since trap catches can increase quickly at this time of year, be sure to check local moth catches in your area by calling the Crop Pest Hotline (instate: 800-345-7544; out of state: 302-831-8851) or visiting our website at <http://ag.udel.edu/extension/IPM/traps/latestbt.html>. We continue to find beet armyworms (BAW) so be sure to watch for feeding signs and apply treatments before significant webbing occurs. We continue to find aphids in fields and populations can explode quickly, especially where beneficial insect activity is low. As a general guideline, treatment may be needed if you find one or more aphids per leaf and beneficial activity is low.

Snap Beans

At this time of year, you will need to consider a treatment for both corn borer and corn earworms. Sprays are needed at the bud and pin stages on processing beans for corn borer control. An earworm spray may also be needed at the pin stage. Just as a reminder, Orthene (acephate) will not provide effective corn earworm control in processing snap beans. If Orthene is used for corn borer control you will need to combine it with a corn earworm

material (e.g. a pyrethroid). You will need to check our website for the most recent trap catches to help decide on the spray interval between the pin stage and harvest for processing snap beans (<http://ag.udel.edu/extension/IPM/traps/latestblt.html> and <http://ag.udel.edu/extension/IPM/thresh/snapbeanecbthresh.html>). Once pins are present on fresh market snap beans, a 7 to 10-day schedule should be maintained for corn borer and corn earworm control.

Sweet Corn

The first silk sprays will be needed as soon as ear shanks are visible. Be sure to check both blacklight and pheromone trap catches for silk spray schedules since the spray schedules can quickly change. Trap catches are generally updated on Tuesday and Friday mornings (<http://ag.udel.edu/extension/IPM/traps/latestblt.html> and <http://ag.udel.edu/extension/IPM/thresh/silksp raythresh.html>). You can also call the Crop Pest Hotline (in state: 800-345-7544; out of state: 302-831-8851). A whorl stage treatment should be considered for fall armyworm when 12-15% of the plants are infested. We continue to find pockets of high fall armyworm infestations. Since fall armyworm feed deep in the whorls, sprays should be directed into the whorls and multiple applications are often needed to achieve control. At this time of year, you will need to combine a fall armyworm material with a pyrethroid for the first 2-3 silk sprays for fall armyworm control. Be sure to check all labels for days to harvest and maximum amount allowed per acre.

FDA Has Release Draft Food Safety Guidelines for Melons, Leafy Greens, and Tomatoes - Gordon Johnson, Extension Ag Agent, Kent Co.; gcjohn@udel.edu

As part of the continued emphasis on improving produce food safety, the Food and Drug Administration has recently published draft guidance documents for reducing microbial food safety hazards in 3 crop groups - melons, tomatoes, and leafy greens. These publications

are available for viewing at the FDA website at the following locations:

Melons

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/GuidanceDocuments/ProduceandPlanProducts/ucm174171.htm>

Tomatoes

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/GuidanceDocuments/ProduceandPlanProducts/ucm173902.htm>

Leafy Greens

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/GuidanceDocuments/ProduceandPlanProducts/ucm174200.htm>

The FDA is currently accepting public comments on these guidelines. The following are some excerpts:

Melons

FDA recommends:

- Conducting environmental assessments on the topography, land history, risk of flooding, adjacent land use, and domestic animal and wildlife presence associated with the production environment, using concepts that are outlined in the GAPs Guide (to the extent that any of these environmental factors are present).
- Monitoring and reducing, to the extent possible, domestic animal, wildlife, and insect activity in melon production environments that may contaminate water and soil with human pathogens and directly or indirectly contact melons, thereby increasing the risk of product contamination.
- Evaluating whether to harvest portions of melon fields when there is evidence of unusually heavy wildlife pest infestations (e.g., presence of wildlife feces, large areas of animal tracks, or burrowing).
- Training harvest employees to recognize and report signs and evidence of wildlife pest infestations (e.g., feces) and take appropriate actions.
- Delaying harvest and performing extra washing when heavy rains have recently occurred. Heavy rains may increase the likelihood of soil-to-melon contamination.

Multiple Melon Harvests

Multiple melon harvests may increase the likelihood of melon contamination due to increased wildlife and insect pressures because of the presence in the field of melons mechanically damaged during prior harvest operations.

FDA recommends:

- Training harvest employees to recognize and not harvest melons that have mechanical damage or possible contamination from previous harvest operations.
- Evaluating ways to reduce flying insect access, to the extent possible, to animal feces and other likely sources of human pathogens that may contaminate non-harvested melons in the field.
- Evaluating ways to dispose of culled melons which reduce the potential for melon culls to serve as animal and insect pest attractant. This will reduce the potential for insect/pest-to-melon fruit contamination.

Tomatoes

FDA recommends:

- Determining the previous usage of land. Assessing and mitigating conditions that may pose a food safety risk in and near production fields.
- Conducting an environmental assessment (e.g., considering topography, land history, near-by land use, and domestic animal and wildlife presence) including a consideration of the potential for flooding to create conditions that may pose a food safety risk.
- Locating tomato fields away from any area that may receive run-off or drainage from an animal operation or any other source of contamination that may pose a food safety risk.
- Avoiding, preventing, or minimizing run-off into the tomato field from any animal operation or other conditions that may pose a food safety risk.
- Avoiding the harvest of tomatoes in areas that have been contaminated by run-off from an animal operation or other potential source of contamination.

Tomato Equipment and Containers

FDA recommends:

- Cleaning and sanitizing any surface or equipment intended to contact fresh tomatoes (i.e., any food-contact surface), at a frequency sufficient to prevent the surface or equipment from becoming a source of contamination.
 - Constructing reusable containers and food-contact equipment, and utensils of impervious materials that can be cleaned and sanitized.
 - Checking any tomato containers that are received back from a packing house for cleanliness prior to use.
 - Cleaning and sanitizing harvest containers, bins, food-contact equipment, and utensils at regular intervals during use (e.g., daily), or more often as needed, to remove sand, grit, dirt, and other residue.
 - Establishing routine cleaning and sanitizing procedures (i.e., standard operating procedures).
 - Maintaining all equipment and surfaces in such a way as to minimize the risk of contamination of, and injury to, tomatoes.
 - Maintaining records of cleaning procedures and their implementation.
 - Removing broken or damaged containers that are not easily cleanable from food contact use. If they are retained for other uses (e.g., trash), clearly marking them for their intended use.
- ## Leafy Greens
- FDA recommends:*
- Conducting environmental assessments prior to the first seasonal planting, within one week prior to harvesting, and during harvesting operations.
 - Assessing near-by land use and waterways for activities or conditions that may pose a risk of contamination such as livestock, wildlife, landfills, sewage treatment, chemical plants, or other conditions.
 - Determining land history to identify microbial and chemical contamination from previous land use.

- Evaluating the risk to subsequent crop production on production acreage that has experienced recent postharvest grazing of domesticated animals.
- Evaluating production field locations and proximity to wildlife especially if the production field is isolated from other non-contiguous production areas.
- Evaluating whether heavy rains or irrigation practices may increase the likelihood of soil-to-leafy greens contamination.

Practices FDA recommends to reduce the risk of microbial contamination of leafy greens in the production environment include:

- Locating production sites (to the degree feasible) to minimize potential access by wildlife. For example, considering the proximity to water, wildlife harborage, open range lands, non-contiguous production lots or blocks, and urban centers.
- Controlling risks associated with production fields that are encroached upon by urban development.
- Considering risk factors including septic tank leaching and domestic animal fecal contamination of production fields and harvest equipment.
- Exercising care to reduce the potential for windborne soil, water or other media that may be sources of contamination to come into contact with the edible portions of leafy greens.
- Monitoring and minimizing domestic animal and wildlife activity in leafy greens fields and production environments (e.g., reducing potential harborage and standing water, and utilizing animal repellents and attractants).
- Considering whether or not to harvest any portions of a field affected by unusually heavy wildlife activity or evidence of wildlife activity (e.g., presence of wildlife feces).
- Assessing the field at the time of harvest to ensure that no new food safety risks have occurred.

- Using harvest practices such as removing outer soiled leaves and not harvesting whole soiled heads of leafy greens when excessive soil or mud builds up on leafy greens.

- Training harvest employees to recognize and report for appropriate action any evidence of wildlife activity or infestations (e.g., feces).

Water and Leafy Greens

Water used in production and harvest operations may contaminate leafy greens if it contains human pathogens and contacts edible portions of leafy greens or transmits pathogens by means of water-to-soil and soil-to-leafy greens contact. In addition, irrigation methods vary and each method may have varying potential to introduce human pathogens or promote human pathogen growth on leafy greens.

FDA recommends:

- Preparing a description of the irrigation water system. Using maps, photographs, drawings, or other means to communicate the location of permanent fixtures and the flow of the water system (including any water captured for re-use). Documenting permanent fixtures, including wells, gates, reservoirs, valves, returns and other above-ground features that make up a complete irrigation system, so as to enable location on the field. Documenting water sources and the production sites they may serve.
- Performing a sanitary survey prior to the use of water in agricultural operations to determine if the quality of water meets applicable State and local requirements, and then monitoring water quality with regular testing.
- Evaluating irrigation methods (e.g., drip irrigation, overhead sprinkler, and furrow) for their potential to introduce, support or promote the growth of human pathogens on leafy greens. Considering issues such as the potential for irrigation methods to deposit soil on the crop or cause pooled or standing water that attracts animals.
- Considering the impact of storm events on surface waters used to irrigate crops. Bacterial loads in surface water are generally much higher after a storm than normal and caution should be exercised when using these waters for irrigation.

- Considering the potential for pathogen contamination and growth when combining water from different sources (e.g., water systems that convey untreated human or animal waste should not be combined with conveyances used to deliver irrigation water).
- Storing irrigation pipes and drip tape in a manner that reduces potential pest infestations and developing procedures to ensure safe use of irrigation pipes and drip tape if a pest infestation does occur.
- Ensuring that water used on harvesting equipment or during harvesting is of appropriate microbial quality for its intended use. Testing the water source regularly to ensure that it is of appropriate microbial quality for its intended use.
- Evaluating risks of using reclaimed (primary or secondary) water, including use in operations such as road dust abatement. Reclaimed water may be subject to State and local requirements.

Lima Bean Disease Update - Bob Mulrooney, Extension Plant Pathologist; bobmul@udel.edu

Downy Mildew and Lima Bean Pod Rot
 Two more fields were identified with downy mildew this week so it is important to keep scouting. *Phytophthora capsici* was also identified on pods from a field close to harvest. This disease we have named lima bean pod rot. It is found most commonly in low spots in the field. I had talked about it in the article titled [Downy Mildew Identified on Lima Beans](#) in [WCU 17:20](#) and have included another picture to help you identify it in the field. There is no effective fungicide control for this disease at the present time. Copper applications may help, but have not been very effective on *Phytophthora capsici* on other crops. Some field populations of this fungus may be resistant to Ridomil Gold/Copper as we discovered several years ago, so that product cannot be depended on to provide control unless the fungus population is susceptible to Ridomil (mefanoxam).



Downy mildew on the upper pod and lima bean pod rot on the lower pod. Note the granular appearance of the fungus on the lower pod and the lack of a reddish brown border on the pod infected with lima bean pod rot or *Phytophthora capsici*.

White Mold

We have yet to see white mold in limas but there is a new fungicide labeled for white mold in lima and snap beans. Omega 500F (fluazinam) from Syngenta, an excellent white mold fungicide that has been labeled in potatoes and peanuts for a long time, is now labeled on beans (snaps and limas). The good thing is that this fungicide is also very effective against downy mildew on limas if applied preventatively although downy mildew is not on the label. I have one year's test results under heavy disease pressure and it performed very well at the 5.5 fl oz rate. This label was granted after the recommendations book was printed so it is not in the recs. It is the only product that provides control of both white mold and downy mildew. I am going to get another look at it this fall for downy mildew control so I can have two years of data.

Basil Downy Mildew Found in Delaware - Bob Mulrooney, Extension Plant Pathologist; bobmul@udel.edu

Herb growers should be on the lookout for basil downy mildew. It is now showing up in the region, including Delaware. There was some found earlier in the summer on transplants but now it is spreading by airborne spores called sporangia. Often the symptoms appear in the upper canopy as light yellow blotches and it is

difficult to see in the early stages. These light blotches continue to turn yellow, brown then black. The fungus can be seen on the lower leaf surface as fine tufts of fungus growth as well as the sporangia that blow in the wind and spread the disease. The only fungicides that are labeled are the phosphorus acid or phosphonate fungicides that have herbs on the label which include Prophyt and K-Phite. Increase air circulation and remove badly infected plants. There is more info on the Plant Clinic website <http://ag.udel.edu/extension/pdc/index.htm>. The following photos are courtesy of Meg McGrath, Cornell University, Riverhead Long Island.



Close-up of pathogen growth.



Yellowing on upper leaf surfaces



Pathogen growth and spores on lower leaf surfaces.

Downy Mildew on Cucurbits - *Bob Mulrooney, Extension Plant Pathologist; bobmul@udel.edu*

The weather continues to be very favorable for downy mildew. It is spreading now to hosts other than cucumber. Cantaloupe, watermelon, winter squash and pumpkin have all been infected in the region. The spots are much smaller on butternut squash and watermelon but still produce the small tuft of fungus growth on the underside of the leaf. All cucurbit growers need to be including a fungicide specific for downy mildew in their spray rotation such as Previcur Flex, Ranman, Presidio, or Tanos at this time. Follow the label directions for plant-back restrictions, mixing partners such as Bravo and mancozeb, and adjuvants. See the [2009 Commercial Vegetable Productions Recommendations](#) for more information.

Pumpkin Plants Turn Ugly in Just a Few Days - *Jerry Brust, IPM Vegetable Specialist, University of Maryland; jbrust@umd.edu*

Last Thursday, August 6, my pumpkin plants looked great with large green leaves and just a little powdery mildew (Fig. 1). Just a few days later and they looked horrid (Fig. 2). Some leaves were just splotched with little yellow spots, while other leaves had necrotic edges (Fig. 3). By the calls I have been getting so far this week this same sort of thing is happening in many other pumpkin fields around Maryland.

Exactly what could cause such a rapid decline of the foliage is still not clear. The weather over the weekend and for the last few days was some of the hottest and most humid we have had so far this summer. Pumpkins are sizing on the vine and the plants are under stress. In some of the fields the soil moisture seemed adequate, but greater levels are needed when it is this hot and plants and fruit are large. In most of the fields downy mildew was either established or just getting started. Whether it was the weather that weakened the plants and the downy mildew could take-off or the low level of infection of the downy mildew further stressed the plants when it was so hot and humid is unclear and does not really matter as the downy mildew needs to be controlled before it gets any worse. Best management practices for downy have been reported by Bob and Kate over the last few weeks. (Editor's Note: See articles in [WCU 17:17](#), [WCU 17:18](#), and [WCU 17:19](#) for fungicide recommendations from Bob Mulrooney and Kate Everts.)

Another factor may have been soil pH that was a little low but certainly tolerable, i.e., 5.7-6.0. These pH levels usually are not a problem but when the plant is under stress any additional stress will just add to the misery of that plant. At this point in time you cannot do anything about your pH, so be sure to reduce as many other stresses as you can—disease, insects (squash bug and cucumber beetles), and lack of water.



Figure 1. Pumpkin field on Thursday, August 6, looking good



Figure 2. Same pumpkin field on Wednesday, August 12, downy mildew is at low levels in the field



Figure 3. Pumpkin leaf with splotchy yellowing — downy mildew was found to be just starting on this leaf

Agronomic Crops

[Agronomic Crop Insects](#) - Joanne Whalen, Extension IPM Specialist; jwhalen@udel.edu

Alfalfa, Grain Sorghum, Late Planted Field Corn and Grass Hay Crops

Over the past week, we have received reports from consultants in Maryland and Delaware regarding fall armyworm damage to all of these crops. In corn and grain sorghum, control will be difficult since armyworms feed deep in the

whorls of plants. For the most effective control, materials must be directed into the whorls and at least 25 gallons of water used per acre to get a reduction in populations. Also, in many cases one application is often not enough to get satisfactory control - especially if larvae are large and feeding deep in the whorls. For alfalfa, field corn and grain sorghum, a number of pyrethroids, as well as Lorsban and Lannate are labeled for armyworm control. Labeled pyrethroids often indicate that larvae should be small (first and second instar only) and/or the highest labeled rate is needed, especially if larvae are larger.

In grass hay crops, fields should be watched closely after cutting for armyworm damage to the regrowth. Baythroid XL, Mustang MAX, and Warrior II are all labeled for armyworm control on grass hay crops. Insects must be small at the time of treatment to achieve control.

Before treatment, be sure to check all labels for the rate; comments on control under high populations and size of larvae; days to harvest, forage/silage restrictions, as well as other use restrictions.

Soybeans

As the potential for late season insect control increases, be sure to check all labels for the days from last application to harvest as well as other restrictions.

In double crop soybeans, be sure to watch for an increase in defoliators, especially green cloverworm. Remember, double crop soybeans can not tolerate as much defoliation as full season soybeans. Unfortunately, we do not have a threshold for the number of green cloverworms per sweep. A treatment maybe needed if defoliation has increased from one scouting visit to the next, especially if other defoliators are present at the time of treatment. Diseases can help to crash populations; however, we have only found a few diseased worms so far this week.

Continue to scout all soybeans (full season and double crop) for soybean aphids. We continue to find aphids in fields throughout the state and in some locations populations are increasing. We have heard of hot spots on the eastern shore of

Maryland as well. When scouting for aphids, you need to look at the entire plant - not just the stems. Often times you will find the first aphids on the newest emerging trifoliolate that is not fully expanded. As a general guideline, treatment is needed through the R-5 stage (seed is 1/8 inch long in the pod of one of the four uppermost nodes on the main stem) of soybean development if economic levels are present. It may also be beneficial to spray through R-6 stage (pods containing a green seed that fills the pod cavity at one of the four uppermost nodes on the main stem) -- reports vary as to the benefit of spraying once plants reach the R-6 but in some years and some situations there has been an economic return. Spraying after R-6 stage has not been documented to increase yield in the Midwest. *The suggested treatment threshold from the Midwest is still 250 aphids per plant with 80% of the plants infested with aphids.* Although we are not seeing high levels of beneficial insect activity, we are starting to see an increase in lady beetle number as well as parasitized aphids. You can also consider using speed scouting to make a treatment decision. Information on how to use speed scouting can be founds at:

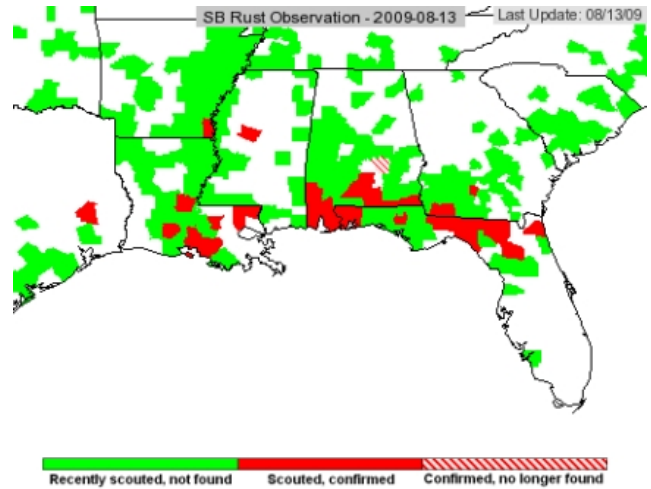
http://www.nwroc.umn.edu/Cropping_issues/2007/Issue9/07_17_07_no4.htm

or

<http://breeze.ag.vt.edu/speedscouting>.

We continue to find sporadic and low levels of corn earworms in fields throughout the state. As corn dries down, moths emerging from larvae found in corn fields will lay eggs in soybeans. Remember, corn earworms will feed on the foliage and the pods. The only way to know if you have an economic level will be to scout. Therefore be sure to scout all fields for podworms. States to our south, including Virginia, have reported control failures with pyrethroids in soybeans in 2007 and 2008. Up until 2008, poor control in our area has been the result of treating too late, treating large worms or using too low of a rate. If you use a pyrethroid for earworm control, you should be using the highest labeled rate. In addition to the pyrethroids, Steward or Lorsban should also be considered, especially if armyworms are in the mix. In the past, we have used the treatment threshold of 3 corn earworms per 25 sweeps in

narrow row fields and 5 corn earworms per 25 sweeps in wide row fields (20 inches or greater). These are static thresholds that were calculated for a 10-year average soybean bushel value of \$6.28. A better approach to determining a threshold is to access the Corn Earworm Calculator (<http://www.ipm.vt.edu/cew/>) which estimates a threshold based on the actual treatment cost and bushel value you enter.



Soybean Rust Update - Bob Mulrooney,
Extension Plant Pathologist; bobmul@udel.edu

On August 13, soybean rust was reported in Suwannee County, Florida on kudzu. On August 12, soybean rust was reported in three additional Florida counties, Duval, Madison, and Washington. On August 11, soybean rust was reported on soybean in Tift County in Georgia. On August 10, soybean rust was found for the first time this year in Arkansas, in Chicot County on soybeans. On August 6, soybean rust was found in Holmes County, Mississippi in a commercial soybean field; this is a first find in the state this year.

As you can see soybean rust activity is increasing in the South. Most of the spore movement is going toward the Mississippi River Valley and not east. There has been some spraying for soybean diseases in the South other than rust but the rust that has appeared in commercial fields has come too late to affect yields for the most part. The season is still young and we have considerable acreage of late soybeans this year, so time will tell. Soybean rust monitoring in Delaware has begun and we will keep you up to date.

Grain Marketing Highlights - Carl German,
Extension Crops Marketing Specialist;
clgerman@udel.edu

It All Hinges on Weather

Results are now in for the long awaited August 12 USDA Supply and Demand estimates. On first glance one would have to think no harm done. If USDA had not increased total use for U.S. corn by 350 million bushels to offset the impact of the projected production increase then this report would have been viewed as more negative for corn prices. If USDA had not decreased the yield estimate for soybean production then that would have cast a negative tone to new crop soybean prices. Considering the fact that those two things did not happen, one could go so far as to believe that this report was somewhat bullish and not just for soybeans. My reasoning is simply that ending stocks for corn could have been closer to 2 billion bushels than this report suggests. It is important to bear in mind that the numbers in this report are estimates. The accuracy of these estimates will not be known until harvest.

Corn Analysis

U.S. corn production is now forecast at 12.761 billion bushels, 471 million bushels larger than the July estimate. USDA re-surveyed planted acres in seven states, leaving '09 U.S. corn planted acres at 87 million. The estimate for harvested acres was reduced by 100,000 acres to 80 million. The estimated yield was increased 6.1 bushels per acre from last month, now

placed at 159.5 bushels per acre. Total supply for the '09/'10 marketing year was only increased 421 million bushels due to a 50 million bushel decrease in the estimate for beginning stocks from one month ago.

On the demand side, the estimate for feed and residual use was increased 100 million bushels; food, seed and industrial use was increased 100 million bushels; and the estimate for ethanol for fuel use was increased 100 million bushels placing total domestic use at 10.775 billion bushels, a 200 million bushel increase from last month. The estimate for U.S. corn exports was increased 150 million bushels bringing total use to a projected 12.875 billion bushels, a 350 million bushel increase in projected corn use from last month. Ending stocks for U.S. corn, now projected at 1.621 billion bushels, are 71 million bushels larger than a month ago. The season average farm price was reduced by 25 cents per bushel on both ends of the price range, now estimated at \$3.10 to \$3.90 per bushel.

World ending corn stocks are now projected at 141.49 million metric tons for the '09/'10 marketing year and 144.08 MMT for the '08/'09 marketing year. Both estimates were increased from last month.

Soybean Analysis

U.S. soybean production is now projected at 3.199 billion bushels, 60 million bushels less than a month ago. Planted acres were increased by 200,000 acres from last month, now placed at 77.7 million acres. Harvested acres were increased by 300,000 acres from last month. The yield per acre was decreased 9/10th of a bushel and is now estimated at 41.7 bushels per acre. The reduction in projected U.S. soybean production resulted in total soybean supply being decreased by 60 million bushels, now placed at 3.320 billion bushels.

Soybean demand was reduced 10 million bushels for crushings; 10 million bushels for exports; and 1 million bushels for residual placing the August projection for total use at 3.109 billion bushels, 31 million bushels less than a month ago. Ending stocks for U.S. soybeans were reduced 40 million bushels from last month, now projected at 210

million bushels. Ending stocks for the old crop were left unchanged at 110 million bushels. The season average farm price was increased by 10 cents per bushel on both ends of the price range, now placed at \$8.40 to \$10.40 per bushel.

World ending stocks for soybeans are projected at 50.32 million metric tons for the '09/'10 marketing year and 41 MMT for '08/'09. Both estimates were lowered from last month.

Wheat Analysis

The estimate for U.S. wheat production was increased by 72 million bushels from last month due to a 1.4 bushel increase in the yield projection, from 41.9 to 43.3 bushels per acre. Imports were lowered 5 million bushels. Total U.S. wheat supply is now projected at 2.961 billion bushels, 67 million bushels larger than last month.

Domestic use for wheat projections increased by 5 million bushels. The export projection increased by 25 million bushels, now projected at 950 million bushels. Total use is now projected at 2.218 billion bushels for all U.S. wheat, 70 million bushels less than last month. Ending stocks for U.S. wheat are now placed at 743 million bushels, 37 million bushels larger than last month's estimate. The estimate for the season average farm price was reduced 10 cents per bushel on both ends of the price range, now placed at \$4.70 to \$5.70 per bushel.

World ending stocks for wheat are projected at 183.56 million metric tons for the '09/'10 marketing year and 169.5 MMT for '08/'09. Both estimates were increased from last month.

Market Strategy

From this point forward, weather developments will be the determining factor in whether we meet these production estimates, exceed them, or fall short of the projections. Since growing conditions are nearly ideal in the Corn Belt, '09 U.S. corn and soybean production are most likely to be impacted by the length of the growing season. A long growing season would mean that these forecasts are likely to be met. A shortened season stemming from an early frost would greatly reduce crop yields. In the meantime it may become possible to advance some pre-harvest sales for corn and soybeans as

commodity traders jockey their positions to be in line with the, eventual-actual crop size. Currently, Dec '09 corn futures are trading at \$3.30; Nov '09 soybeans at \$10.34; and Dec '09 SRW wheat at \$5.07 per bushel. For technical assistance on making grain marketing decisions contact: Carl L. German, Extension Crops Marketing Specialist.

Announcements

Soil Health and Vegetable Crops Twilight Meeting: *Incorporating Soil Health Management into an IPM Program for Vegetables*

Thursday, August 27, 2009 5:30 p.m.
Carvel Research and Education Center
16483 County Seat Hwy., Georgetown, DE
(meet at the grove)

All vegetable growers, field personnel, and vegetable crop advisors are invited to attend a twilight meeting dedicated to soil health and vegetable crops. With tighter rotations, soil health is major concern with vegetable production. This twilight meeting will focus on incorporating soil health management into an IPM program for vegetables.

You will see several demonstration plots including:

- Comparisons of compost types and rates in plasticulture vegetable production and effects of compost on soil health.
- Comparisons of several sorghum species as summer green manure crops and biofumigants for impacts on soil health and vegetable crop production.
- Evaluation of mustard family species as cover crops and biofumigants for impacts on soil health.
- Evaluation of multiple plantings of cover crops with biofumigant properties on soil health.

Participants will also do some hands-on soil health assessments.

UD specialists, agents, and associates will be on hand to talk about past and current research in relation to soil health and vegetable crop production as well as

best practices to incorporate to maintain soil health on vegetable farms.

Please call (302) 730-4000 to let us know if you will be attending or email gcjohn@udel.edu.

“Raising Farm Profits” Farmer Bus Tour Monday, Aug. 31-Tuesday, Sep. 1, 2009

The goal of this tour is to provide farmers a chance to learn from successful and innovative farming ventures in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. There are many options for farmers to increase their profits and many obstacles to overcome. Hands-on demonstrations and first-hand explanations can help people see the results for themselves. The stops chosen for the tour offer diverse and practical examples of what farmers can do to help their bottom line while using sustainable practices and improving community relations. Major focuses of the tour include direct marketing, value-added products, soil conservation and season extension.

The cost for the tour is \$25 and includes food and lodging.

For additional information call (302) 857-6462 or go to <http://www.rec.udel.edu/update09/bustour.pdf>.

Equine Pasture Walk

Tuesday, September 29, 2009 5:30-7:30 p.m.
University of Delaware Webb Farm
508 S. Chapel St., Newark, DE

Come and meet University of Delaware's new Equine Extension Specialist, Dr. Carissa Wickens. Learn about rotational grazing and management practices used on-farm at UD. Get help with decisions regarding pasture nutrient needs and the rising cost of fertilizers and amendments. Learn about NRCS programs available to help you and your farming operation.

Experts will be on hand from the University of Delaware and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to answer your questions!

This meeting is free and everyone interested in attending is welcome. Please bring a folding chair.

Nutrient management and CCA credits will be available.

Please preregister by September 25. To register, request more information or if you require special needs assistance for this meeting, please call our office at (302) 831-2506.

See you there!
Anna Stoops, New Castle County Ag. Extension Agent

Weather Summary

Carvel Research and Education Center Georgetown, DE

Week of August 6 to August 12, 2009

Readings Taken from Midnight to Midnight

Rainfall:

0.67 inch: August 6
0.01 inch: August 7
0.06 inch: August 11
0.04 inch: August 12

Air Temperature:

Highs ranged from 92°F on August 10 to 74°F on August 6.

Lows ranged from 72°F on August 11 to 61°F on August 7.

Additional Delaware weather data is available at
http://www.deos.udel.edu/agirrigation_retrieval.html
and
<http://www.rec.udel.edu/TopLevel/Weather.htm>

Weekly Crop Update is compiled and edited by Emmalea Ernest, Extension Associate - Vegetable Crops. For subscription information, contact her at emmalea@udel.edu or (302) 856-2585 x 587.

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