

Winnebago County Crops Quick Update

Assembled by Nick Schneider, Winnebago County Agriculture Agent

June 8, 2009

Alfalfa Forage Quality: May 15, PEAQ Stick RFQ: 17-18", Vegetative, 230
 May 19, PEAQ Stick RFQ: 20", Vegetative, 210
 May 19, Scissors Clip RFV: 302
 May 21, PEAQ Stick RFQ: 24" Vegetative, 190
 May 26, PEAQ Stick RFQ: 29" Early Bud, 160, Vegetative
 May 28, PEAQ Stick RFQ: 30" Bud, 155
 May 28, Scissors Clip RFV: 172, Crude Protein: 22.75
 June 1, PEAQ Stick RFQ: 33", Bud, 145
 June 1, Scissors Clip RFV: 170, Crude Protein: 22.48
 June 4, PEAQ Stick RFQ: 35", Bud 139
 June 4, Scissor Clip RFV: 193, Crude Protein: 19.35
 June 8, PEAQ Stick RFQ: 35", Bud 139

Alfalfa has remained in the bud stage for a long duration. Height has increased little in the past week. For state-wide data please go to this website: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/ag/scissorsclip/>

PEAQ Sticks can be ordered from the Midwest Forage Association for \$10 plus shipping. Download an order form at: www.midwestforage.org/PEAQ.php

Wisconsin Crop Progress: June 8 2009. Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office
 Full report at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/>

Soil Moisture		
	East Central Wisconsin	State Average
Very Short	0	9
Short	7	22
Adequate	77	64
Surplus	16	5

Wisconsin Weekly Weather								
City	Temperature		GDD (50 base)		Precipitation			Year to date
	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal	March 1 to June 6	Normal	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal	
Green Bay	55	-7	429	450	0.67	0.64	0.02	11.55
Madison	58	-5	570	588	0.02	0.02	-0.64	16.77

Wisconsin Crop Progress					
Crop and percent of acreage	East		State Average		
	Central	Central	This Year	Last Year	5-Year
Corn Emerged	78	87	86	80	84
Soybeans Planted	84	70	88	89	87
Spring Tillage Complete	48	37	58	52	62
First Cutting Hay	46	46	51	18	37

Observation of the week: Attendance at the tillage and soil quality field day was very good last week. The no-till field used for the event had a tremendous number of worm midden, typically 3-5 per square foot. Worm middens basically are worm nests. Earthworms, nightcrawlers in particular, pull a large amount of stem and leaf residue into and around the top of their holes. This residue diminishes the affects of raindrop impact. The worm casting (excrement) portion of the midden holds the soil particles together, i.e. improving aggregate stability, making this soil less susceptible to erosion. Earthworms leave large macropores for water to drain into and roots to travel downward through.

Wisconsin Pest Bulletin: Wisconsin DATCP. Volume 54, Number 7, June 6 2009

Full report at: <http://pestbulletin.wi.gov/>

Alfalfa

ALFALFA WEEVIL - Surveys show larval numbers and tip feeding have increased over the previous week, principally due to the hatch of spring eggs and the maturation of larvae. Leaf tip injury in southern counties varied from 5-90% and larval populations averaged 34 per 25 sweeps. Exceptional fields in Richland and Sauk counties had counts of 100-132 per 25 sweeps, with 30-90% tip injury. Larval counts in Adams, Marquette and Waushara counties in the central district ranged from 10-29 per 25 sweeps and averaged 18 per 25 sweeps. Although the number of damaging late instar larvae has increased substantially, a second group of small larvae from spring eggs also has become evident in most fields. Tip feeding in first growth alfalfa is below 20% in the southern areas of the state and 10% in the central counties, with a few exceptions.

PLANT BUGS - Numbers generally are below the economic threshold of 5 per sweep.

POTATO LEAFHOPPER - Low populations can be found in alfalfa in the southern and central areas. Average field counts vary from 1-14 per 25 sweeps, which represents a minor increase over last week's observations. Migrant adults are uniformly distributed over the southern half of the state and have been encountered as far north as Lincoln and Marathon counties.

MEADOW SPITTLEBUG - Numbers rarely exceed 4 per 10 stems.

ALFALFA BLOTCH LEAFMINER - Leaf mines were observed in every alfalfa field checked in the last reporting period. Surveys found infestations affecting 10-90% of stems in the southern areas and 10-20% of stems in the central areas. The highest rates of leaf mining were noted in Grant, Ozaukee and Washington counties. --Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

Corn

EUROPEAN CORN BORER - The emergence of moths continued for the second week at Arlington, Lancaster and Marshfield, but numbers in black light traps are still very low. Counts of 0-2 moths per trap were registered from May 30-June 4, which is equivalent to the number reported from May 22-28. Seasonably warm, humid weather forecast for next week should stimulate increased egg deposition and cause a distinct upsurge in trap counts. The majority of moths are expected to appear in traps by June 14-21 in the southern and central counties, a few days later than last predicted. Since most corn is unsuitable for larval development, higher than normal egg deposition on hosts such as potatoes, peas and native weeds should be anticipated.

BLACK CUTWORM - Larvae from the late April migration of moths are primarily in the 4th and 5th instar cutting stages. At current temperatures, the cutting interval is likely to continue for another 1-2 weeks. It should be noted that there is a strong potential for larval outbreaks later this month resulting from secondary surges of migrant adults. Late-planted corn and fields that contained grassy weeds or a small grain cover crop are prime candidates for attack. Growers are advised to monitor their fields over the next several weeks for developing problems. Minor feeding was detected in western Dane County, but no significant injury has been reported as of June 5.

STALK BORER - Light feeding is apparent in the edge rows and scattered throughout a few no-till corn fields. In Columbia and Dane counties, no more than 5% of plants in the marginal rows and 3% of plants in the interior rows show injury by small larvae. Similar levels of infestation were found as far north as Waushara County.

TRUE ARMYWORM - Small first generation larvae were swept from alfalfa fields for the first time this week, signaling that corn and small grains fields should be closely examined for feeding injury by this insect as well as the stalk borer in the next several weeks. Black light traps have registered no more than 18 moths per week at any location this season, but such counts usually are an unreliable criterion for predicting larval outbreaks. Minimum tillage corn fields and fields with early season grassy weed pressure are more prone to armyworm attack.

--Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

Soybeans

BEAN LEAF BEETLE - Surveys in first growth alfalfa are incomplete, but continue to indicate low winter survival of this insect. Further sweeping in the southern and central counties yielded just 10 additional beetles since the last report, bringing the survey total to 23 beetles from 143 sites sampled as of June 4. This figure is analogous to the number collected last season but very low in comparison to the 486 beetles swept from the same counties when a similar survey was conducted in 2007. Beetles were collected in 13 fields in Fond du Lac, Grant, Jefferson, Lafayette, Rock, Trempealeau, Waukesha, Waushara and Washington counties, with no apparent pattern to their distribution. Preliminary indications are that overwintered beetles are scarce and the risk for substantial defoliation to early emerging soybeans is low. Despite this prediction, emerging soybean fields should be examined for evidence of feeding now that beetles have

begun dispersing from alfalfa to soybeans.

--*Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist*

The Soy Report, Shawn Conley UW Soybean and Small Grain Specialist and Paul Esker, UW Plant Pathologist. Wednesday June 3, 2009.

The winter wheat is rapidly advancing around the state, based both on our observations in the field as well as from reports around the state. It is very important that you closely examine the growth stage if considering the application of a foliar fungicide. For example, when we examined the winter wheat variety trial at Lancaster today, wheat ranged from Feekes 10.4 (heads approximately 3/4 emerged) to Feekes 10.5.1 (anthesis). Many fungicides that are used for control of foliar diseases, including Headline, Quilt, Quadris, and Stratego, for example, are only labeled until Feekes 10.5 (full head emergence). Applications made after this growth stage are considered off-label.

Furthermore, pay particular attention to the severity of the different wheat diseases and on which leaf symptoms are observed. As we have recently discussed in the blog and the Wisconsin Crop Manager, the decision to consider a foliar fungicide at this point in the growing season for diseases like powdery mildew, septoria leaf blotch, and wheat leaf rust should be focused on the upper leaves. Also, make sure that you properly identify diseases, as we have seen some virus symptoms like Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus in plots. Foliar fungicides are not effective against viruses.

As we move into flowering, remember that this is the critical period for infection by the pathogen that caused Fusarium head blight. From the initial phase of flowering to the end of flowering takes approximately seven days. Based on recent weather conditions and the [Fusarium head blight prediction center](#), the current risk for Fusarium head blight (as of June 3) is low across the state in Wisconsin.

We have also received some questions as to the current situation around the U.S. Our situation in Wisconsin is much better than other parts of the country, as the severity of Fusarium head blight further south, starting in southern Illinois and running into Arkansas and Kentucky, in particular, is high and there are concerns regarding the risk of high DON contamination.