Crop Update
9/23/16

Winter Education Series

Four workshops scheduled at 7:00 p.m. in the lower level meeting room of the Cape Girardeau County Extension office over next 4 months. Registration is $20/person to attend all four meetings or $10/person per meeting if choosing a particular topic. We have out of town guest speakers coming in November and December, so we ask that you please call to register so that we can plan accordingly. Please direct questions to Anthony Ohmes or Erin Larimore, (573) 243-3581.

Workshop 1: Quality hay production and supplementation for winter feeding on October 4th

Workshop 2: Fescue toxicosis and T-Snip program on November 8th

Workshop 3: Livestock risk protection insurance and weed management in pastures on December 6th

Workshop 4: Weed management in row crops and grain market outlook on January 10th

Regional Meetings

Certified Crop Advisor meeting scheduled for November 21st and 22nd. This is an opportunity to receive up to 16 CEU's (4 in each category). The meeting is held at the Fisher Delta Research Center. Please direct questions to David Dunn (DunnD@missouri.edu) or Anthony Ohmes.

Regional Corn meeting is scheduled for December 7th at the Miner Convention Center in Sikeston, MO. Please direct questions to David Reinbott (ReinbottD@missouri.edu) or Anthony Ohmes.

Regional Soybean meeting is scheduled for January 18th at the Miner Convention Center in Sikeston, MO. Please direct questions to David Reinbott (ReinbottD@missouri.edu) or Anthony Ohmes.

Soybeans

A few questions have come over the past couple of weeks in these final days of soybean development. I have received a question about the elevated number of stink bugs in some fields. Stink bug populations usually begin to peak in August and September. The fields I have found them in were late R6 stage of development. Stink bug management during late reproductive stages is for quality. Late development stages generally do not warrant control measures. Continue to monitor late planted soybean fields for this pest. More information can be found in the MU Guide on stink bugs.

Another question is on irrigation termination (click for more info). Soybeans will require approximately 1.5 to 2 inches of water to reach maturity when more than 2/3 of pods have beans touching (R6++). This time period is generally a recommended timing for terminating or to make one last irrigation on sandier soils which have a lower water holding capacity that loam soils.

Novel (non-toxic) Fescue

I have received some questions about "novel endophyte" fescue. There is some confusion on what exactly this means when it comes to making a decision on renovating a cool season grass pasture or hay field. Novel endophyte fescue is NOT endophyte free fescue. So what is endophyte fescue? Endo (in) and phyte (plant) describes where a fungus is found growing in fescue plants. The endophyte fungus is what makes fescue more persistent and tolerant to extremes compared to short-lived perennials such as orchardgrass. With Kentucky 31 fescue the fungus, in addition to the benefits, produces various levels of a toxic alkaloids such as ergovaline. This toxin causes fescue toxicosis, described in MU Guide 4669. In novel endophyte fescue, a new endophyte fungus provides the benefits of fescue persistence and tolerance without the toxic side effects. More information on this subject will be discussed in the November 8th workshop.

If renovating a new field and you have eliminated toxic K31 through the spray-smother-spray program (click for more info) or are putting row crop ground back into grass, this month, then novel endophyte fescue would be a beneficial consideration to improve animal performance and production. More information can be found on the Alliance for Grassland Renewal website: http://grasslandrenewal.org/education.htm.

Winter Wheat

Wheat planting season is coming up soon. MU Variety Testing is a good resource for variety selection: http://varietytesting.missouri.edu/.

Optimum planting window is the month of October, preferably after the Hessian fly (click for more info) free date of October 10th or later for the southern region.

Optimum seeding rate is 1.3 to 1.5 million pure live seeds/acre. Pure live seed takes into account percent germination and percent purity of seed. Ideal fall stand counts should be between 30 and 35 plants/ft^2.

Optimum seeding depth is ¾ to 1.5 inches deep. Planting too shallow or deep will negatively influence emergence.

Information on wheat management can found in IPM Guide 1022: "Wheat Management Guide"

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