Crop Update
7/21/15

Soil Moisture Sensors

Farm Tour for Landlords. (Wednesday, Aug. 12. 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM). E-mail henggelerj@missouri.edu to be sent a secure link to preregister.

This event is for landlords of irrigated land only and will be held at the Glenn Restaurant south of Charleston, MO. Dinner will be provided and a presentation on the economics of farmers/landlords using wireless soil moisture sensors to schedule irrigation. The presentation will talk about expected yield increases, suggestions on sharing of costs between farmer/landlord, and the 2016 EQIP program.

After dinner a trip is planned to a farm 9 miles away that is using various types of sensors. Dealers will be available to talk to at the dinner and on the farm trip. Participants on the trip will not have to leave their car.

Cost is $10 each, seating is limited, and pre-registration is required.

Wireless Soil Moisture Sensor Conference & Tradeshows. (Thursday, Aug. 13. 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM). E-mail henggelerj@missouri.edu to be sent a secure link to preregister.

This conference and tradeshow is specifically dedicated to the use of soil moisture sensors and will feature some of the country’s top experts on the subject. The tradeshow will also be host to a number of the top manufacturers of wireless soil moisture sensors.

A keynote presentations will be Gary Zoubeck of the University of Nebraska. NE is the largest user of sensors in the country with nearly 1 in 4 farms using this technology. Dr. Zoubeck will explain why there is such a large buy-in by farmers on the technology and what it has meant in terms of increased yield and lower pumping costs.

The EQIP program will allow cost share on sensors in 2016. Robyn Sitzes with the NRCS will explain about the program and how farmers can sign-up.

Lunch will be provided by Tasteful Creations Catering with Chef Karen Campbell at the ladle. Cost is $25 if pre-registered or $30 at the door.

Corn

More reports of southern rust in surrounding states. A good post on this disease can found at Arkansas Row Crops. I have not received any reports of the disease but scouting should continue. Again fungicide timing most beneficial to crop yield is VT to R2 (blister). Benefit from fungicides are unlikely once corn reaches 50%
starch line. The following link is from the Corn Disease Working Group for fungicide efficacy ratings which is also listed in the MO M171 manual: https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/BP/BP-160-W.pdf.

Identification of diseases can be found in the following IPM guide: http://extension.missouri.edu/p/IPM1001.

**Milo**

Monitor fields for midge during flowering and corn earworm and webworm during seed development. Midge threshold is 1 adult midge per head at 50% bloom. Dr. Scott Steward has a good article on midge management at UT Crops. The threshold for earworm is 2 larvae per head. Webworm threshold is 5 larvae per head. The MO Pest Management Guide has recommended products for these pests.

Scouting procedures for these pests are outlined in the following guides:

Sorghum midge, Armyworm, Webworm

**Sugarcane Aphid**

White sugarcane aphid (Melanaphis sacchari) has been found in Eastern Arkansas and Tennessee. Information can be found on UT Crops and AR Row Crops. There is a ID guide slide set out of Texas: Sorghum Aphid. If white sugarcane aphids are found some preliminary thresholds are 50 to 100 aphids per leaf on 30% - 50% of plants. The two products available are Sivanto and Transform (under Section 18 label).

**Soybean**

Pigweed management has been a bigger challenge in areas this year. I talked with some producers where the residuals are still holding very well. Some fields, pigweeds have broken through the residuals and with the weather are rapidly growing. When talking pigweed, the time between “control” and failure with POST herbicides in many cases is 24 hours. This makes spraying small <3” tall pigweed necessary to achieve some level of control. Once pigweeds are >4” tall, herbicides may burn the tops out of the weeds but control is generally not achieved. Some research out of TN suggests that rescue treatment of pigweed involves two POST applications 7 days apart to achieve approximately 60% control. Keep in mind rotation restrictions for PPO herbicides when spraying this late in the year. Another concern each year with more dependence on PPO herbicides is resistance. University of TN is beginning the process of evaluating a suspected Palmer amaranth biotype. More info on resistance and Palmer amaranth resistance is in the latest UT Crops. If the pigweeds are scattered, the best option for seed reduction would be pulling the weeds.