

August 18, 2009

- **Soybean Aphids** – Soybean aphids will soon be in the area. The economic threshold is 250 or more aphids per plant during the R1 (flowering) to R5 (seed fill) growth stages. Soybean past R5 may have high aphid populations but research suggests that at this stage there is little impact on yield and spraying is not warranted.
- **Honey bee Colony Collapse Disorder** – A recent study by USDA-ARS indicates that honey bee colonies affected by colony collapse disorder (CCD) have a greater number of bacteria, parasites, and viruses than non-CCD colonies. There was no association between the increased pesticide levels in colonies and CCD.
- **Beginning Beekeeping Class** – One-third of the human diet is derived from insect pollinated plants. Honeybees are responsible for 80% of this pollination. If there is enough interest, a beginning beekeeping course will be held this fall in Henry County. If you or someone you know is interested, contact us at the number below.
- **Wheat Soil Sampling** – Now is a good time to sample the soil in fields where wheat will be planted this fall. Wheat is extremely sensitive to inadequate levels of phosphorus in the soil. A soil test now will indicate low levels of P and give you time to fertilize.
- **Soybean Rust** – Soybean rust has recently been found in southeast Arkansas and west central Mississippi. The weather over the next few weeks will affect the spread of rust in these and neighboring states.

Travis Harper, Agronomy Specialist

Henry County Extension Center – Hours: M-F 8 am to 4:30 pm. Phone: (660)885-5556