

SHELBY COUNTY CROP TALK

June 19, 2020

Crop Scout: The lack of rain is starting to become evident in corn. Corn crops in some areas are starting to curl and show signs of drought stress. The wheat crop is approaching maturity quite rapidly. As mentioned last week, there are some quality concerns in the wheat crop, especially wheat planted into corn stalks. Soybeans look to be in very good shape around the county. Potato leaf hopper damage has been found in alfalfa. At the time of writing this, soils are dry with the best chance of rain to be the early part of next week.



Double Crop Soybeans: The wheat crop is soon to be coming out of the fields and headed to elevators. Most of the wheat stubble in our area will be planted to soybeans. In planning for double crop soybeans, population and maturity are the most common topics discussed.

To maximize soybean yield, soybean plant populations should increase with later planting dates. This helps in a few ways: It closes the canopy sooner to lower competition from weeds. By adding more plants/acre, it maximizes the number of nodes per acre, which is important since there is less time for the plant to create nodes. Nodes are the location on soybean plants where flowers/pods attach. By adding more nodes, there will be more pods/acre in the fall. By increasing soybean plant numbers, each plant stretches for light due to plant-to-plant competition. This causes them to put the first node higher off the ground which aids in harvest. A general population range for double crop soybeans would be 180K-220K plants/acre. The lower end of the range would be for shorter season soybeans.

What maturity should we be planting to maximize our double crop yields? The ninety-day rule should be taken into consideration when choosing maturity. Soybeans need roughly 90 days from emergence to mature enough to make a crop according to Purdue Agronomy's Dr. Shaun Casteel. Yield potential is generally going to be higher for fuller season varieties. The later that soybeans are planted, switching to shorter maturity varieties would be recommended. Planting before July 1 would mean staying closer to a full-maturity variety. A maturity group that is .5 to 1 maturity unit less will mature roughly 4 to 8 days sooner according to Dr. Casteel. When deciding what maturity to plant, calculate the difference between the planting date and (average) first freeze date.



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Farm Estate and Succession Planning Event: Indiana Agricultural Law Foundation will be hosting a three-day virtual farm succession planning event starting July 21st. There will be three sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The sessions will cover topics like farm succession planning, succession trends, and how to protect a family's inheritance. Sessions are an hour long each and will start at 10:30 each day. Registration is required but the event is free to all. The registration link can be found in resources.

Resources:

1. Double Crop Beans
 - a. https://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/soybean/News/2013/DC_Soy_Plant_Decisions_2013_0709.pdf
 - b. <https://extension.psu.edu/considerations-for-double-crop-soybean-production>
2. Farm Succession Planning Event Registration and Info
 - a. <https://www.morningagclips.com/farm-estate-succession-planning-event/>
 - b. <https://app.infarmbureau.org/EventRegistration?event=56>



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