

# SHELBY COUNTY CROP TALK

August 28, 2020

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## Crop Scout

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With adequate rain we are receiving, corn and soybeans around the area are finishing well. Corn yield checks continue to be average to above average. Southern rust has been confirmed in the Shelby County, though not yet reported to Purdue. But with corn at dent stage, it is very unlikely that a fungicide application will be able to save enough yield to pay for itself now. Hay crop growth has been good, and many tons are being hauled off fields this summer. That means lots of soil nutrition is also leaving the field. Be sure to apply fertilizer this fall to your hay fields keep stands productive and compensate for removal. If you have any questions, give me a call.

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## Residual Herbicides and Cover Crops

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Cover crops are becoming increasingly more popular across the state and for good reason. They can help reduce erosion, decrease nutrient loss, build organic matter, improve soil structure, and suppress weeds. If you are thinking about cover crops, it is important to think about what blend you will use and where you will place it. It is also important to consider your weed control program in those fields.

Before sowing any cover crops, take the time and review the labels on herbicides applied to your fields intended for cover crops. The University of Missouri conducted a study on the sensitivity of cover crops to herbicides. The most sensitive cover species they tested was tillage radish and the least sensitive crops were hairy vetch and cereal rye. They also tested Austrian winter pea, crimson clover, annual rye, winter wheat, and winter oats. Soybean chemicals tested that were most injurious were Authority products, Flexstar, Pursuit, Warrant, and Zidua. Corn chemicals checked that caused the most harm were Accent Q, Balance Flexx, Callisto, Impact, Stinger, and Zidua.

When planning a cover crop its important to make sure we can get the most out of it. We need to make sure we are selecting the right species for our goals. We also need to do everything we can to help ensure what we plant will actually grow. Talk to your cover crop seed dealer, local farmers, consult the herbicide labels, or contact myself. I posted the link to a video and article below that covers this topic in more depth.



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## Shelby County Co-Op Virtual Meeting

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This past Wednesday I had a great conversation on a Zoom call with John McGuire of Simplified Technology Services, Luke Baker of Brookside Labs, and Danny Greene of Greene Crop Consulting. We discussed the thoughts an operation might consider adapting various precision agriculture practices and how they might make it happen on their farm. We also discussed a survey of lime sources that we tested this last month in the geography we cover. I will be posting the recordings of these discussions in the coming weeks so be on the look out for this great information.

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## Resources

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- Southern Rust Tracker
  - <https://corn.ipmpipe.org/southerncornrust/>
- Tar Spot Tracker
  - <https://corn.ipmpipe.org/tarspot-2/>
- Cover Crops and Herbicide Carry Over
  - <https://ipm.missouri.edu/ipcm/2014/9/influence-of-corn-and-soybean-herbicide-treatments-on-cover-crop-stands/>
  - <https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/newsletters/pestandcrop/article/soil-residual-herbicides-and-establishment-of-cover-crops-in-the-fall/>