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Todd County Extension Agriculture Newsletter

July 20, 2016

Corn, Soybean & Tobacco Field Day –July 28

UK College of Ag. Specialists will host a field day dedicated to corn, soybeans and tobacco Thursday, July 28, at the UK Research Farm in Princeton. Registration begins at 7 a.m. with the first tours starting about 7:50 a.m.

There are a total of 4 one-hour tours which will run at the same time—three for grain crops and one for tobacco. Producers will have opportunities to participate in all four tours.

Topics on the grain tours include irrigation management research, new weed control technologies, new Kentucky soybean planting date recommendations, high populations and high yields, economic value of poultry litter, disease update, cover crops for weed management, managing manure nutrients, grain economic outlook, and stink bug identification, seed-treated soybeans and border management.

Tobacco tour topics include potassium fertility and contact sucker control, new pesticides and pesticide residues and the potential for chemical topping.

The field day will conclude with lunch provided by the Kentucky Corn Growers Association and Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board. The UK Research and Education Center Farm is located at 1205 Hopkinsville St. in Princeton.

UK Wheat Variety Trial Results Available—

Copies of the 2016 UK Small Grain Variety Trials are available at the Todd County Extension Office and on the internet. These results represent yield data from six different wheat producing regions of Kentucky.

The regional result tables include 2016 results plus 2-year averages. The statewide result table

includes 2016 results plus 2-year and 3-year average yields. Multi-year averages are especially meaningful in helping growers evaluate varieties.

Locally, Todd farm yields for 2016 were very good in spite of the fact that the crop experienced a lot of cool, wet weather during the grain fill period.

The top six commercially-available varieties on a statewide basis in the UK trials were AgriMAXX 463 with a yield of 94.5 bushels per acre, USG 3404 at 94.1 bu/A, AgriMAXX 438 with a yield of 93.4 bushels per acre, Pioneer 26R41 at 92.3 bu/A, AgriMAXX 446 at 92.1 bu/A, and AgriMAXX 444 with a yield of 91.9 bu/A. There were also another 13 varieties in the test that had statewide averages of 90 bu/A or more. Producers need to remember that varietal decisions shouldn't be made based only on this year's test results. Two- and three-year (when available) averages across multiple locations are a better indicator of potential performance than one year of data at one location. Producers should also consider spreading production risks by planting at least three or four varieties with some variation in their dates of maturity.

Test results are also available on the UK Grain Crops website at <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/wheatvarietytest>.

Chemical Jug Recycling Day Set--The 2016 collection day for plastic agricultural chemical jugs will be held Wednesday, August 31, at the Todd County Road Garage on Streets Avenue in Elkton. Jugs will be received between **9 a.m. and 11 a.m.**

Plastic farm chemical jugs of 2.5 gallons or less in size will be accepted. The containers must be rinsed until clean, and must be punctured with the caps removed and the labels removed when possible. If the labels don't come off easily, they can be left on the jugs.

In addition to the standard white or clear jugs, colored plastic containers will also be accepted. Both farmers and dealers are encouraged to bring in their clean chemical containers. For additional information, contact the Todd County Extension Office at 265-5659.

Target Spot and Frogeye Showing Up In

Tobacco-- In research plots and in grower fields, UK specialists are beginning to see target spot and frogeye pressure. These are both true fungi, not water molds like the black shank and blue mold pathogens. Foliar fungicide applications may be necessary for effective management of these diseases.

Both target spot and frogeye start in the oldest, lowest leaves on the plant. Early lesions look very similar between the two diseases, however, target spots tend to expand in rainy conditions, while frogeye lesions will stay smaller than a dime. Frogeye will have white centers, surrounded by a thin tan ring with yellow on the outside; target spots will be primarily brown. Larger target spot lesions develop rings within the spot, and sometimes the centers will fall out. Target spot near the stem end of the leaf can lead to total leaf loss.

Rainy environmental conditions will speed up development of both diseases. Raindrops splash spores from the pathogens into the upper leaves, allowing these diseases to progress higher on the plant.

If tobacco growers have not already done so, consider making a Quadris application. Going through available data from multiple states, in most years spraying Quadris 4 to 6 weeks after setting tobacco reduces target spot. This is most effective if drop nozzles are used, so the chemical is applied where the disease begins. Quadris "burn" may result if plants are sprayed

at high rates under stressful environmental conditions, so growers are encouraged to take precautions. Always follow the product label for safety information and allowable uses.

Tobacco Blue Mold Not In Sight—Tobacco blue mold has been identified this summer in eastern Tennessee, southern Virginia, and Pennsylvania. So far none has been found in Kentucky, and we are not expecting any immediate problems in West Kentucky; but it is always good to keep your eyes open. Scouting should be focused in areas with extended periods of leaf wetness. The longer a tobacco crop goes without being infected, the less yield-limiting blue mold will be. Tobacco that is nearing topping becomes less susceptible to the blue mold pathogen; thus, later-set crops are at highest risk of significant reductions in yield. Burley is more susceptible than dark tobacco.

Southern Rust of Corn Found in KY—UK plant disease specialist Dr. Carl Bradley just confirmed that a small amount of southern rust of corn was discovered in Webster County this week. This is important because most hybrids are susceptible to southern rust, but there may be a few that have some resistance. You can check with their seed company to find out susceptibility of your hybrids to southern rust. Dr. Bradley offers the following advice:

Late-planted corn will be the most at risk. If corn is beyond R3 (milk stage), then there is probably no need to consider spraying it with a fungicide. Southern rust may still develop in fields that are beyond R3, and it may look really bad, but any yield reduction at that point in time would be small.

Evaluating the risk/economics of spraying corn that is currently at silking (R1) or blister (R2) is important. Rust diseases have the potential to be somewhat "explosive" due to the high number of spores produced, and the quick pace that it can go thru a disease cycle, spread, and multiply. Most products are good to very good at controlling southern rust. Dr. Bradley says

that it is important to use a product that contains both a strobilurin and a triazole active ingredient. Product efficacy ratings can be obtained here: <http://bit.ly/1rjIHJO>.

Southern rust is considered a “tropical” disease and is favored by warmer temperatures and high relative humidity which is our typical mid- to late-summer weather. Sometimes it can be difficult to distinguish southern rust from common rust. This online webcast (<http://bit.ly/29j5ZtN>) shows how to differentiate the two diseases. Samples can be sent to the UK Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab for identification.

Curcubit Downy Mildew In KY—According to Dr. Emily Pfeufer, UK Extension plant disease specialist for vegetables and tobacco, a very low level of cucurbit downy mildew was found on butternut squash this week on the UK Spindletop Farm in Lexington. Cucurbit downy mildew has the potential to move very quickly through cucurbit plantings. Cucurbits include cucumbers, zucchini, summer and winter squashes, cantaloupe, watermelon, gourds, and pumpkins. While downy mildew does not directly affect fruit, it can cause such severe damage to foliage that yields can be drastically reduced. If fruit do develop, these may be undersized or scalded by the sun due to lack of foliage. Fungicides are a must to manage this disease under challenging conditions.

Frequent rains cause this disease to spread quickly through and among fields. Local weather forecasts can be used to help growers make decisions on spraying their crops. To further help make management decisions, I recommend anyone growing cucurbits check out the Cucurbit Downy Mildew ipm-PIPE: <http://cdm.ipmpipe.org/>. Growers can sign up for free text or email alerts when downy mildew is identified within a certain distance of their farm. After receiving an alert, the grower should visit the website for a forecasted risk level for their area, which is updated three times per week.

Photos of downy mildew symptoms may be found at the following links:

<http://cdm.ipmpipe.org/node/22>; and the Kentucky Pest News (KPN) article: <https://kentuckypestnews.wordpress.com/2016/06/28/vegetable-diseases-to-scout-for-cucurbit-downy-mildew/>. Fungicide recommendations, based on risk level, are also detailed in the KPN article. At-risk growers, at a minimum, are encouraged to apply a protectant fungicide spray prior to the next rain event.

If you suspect downy mildew in any cucurbit field, please forward a sample to the Plant Disease Diagnostic Labs as quickly as possible for confirmation. Downy mildew is a plant disease that can affect the entire community of cucurbit growers, and quick action can prevent potentially devastating losses.

Curt Judy
Todd Co. Extension Agent for ANR

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