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WEATHER ALMANAC

September 2006

This Month's Issue Includes:

- Making the Most of Fall
- Scouting From the Combine
- Timely Seed Decisions
- Fall Weed Control
- September/Fall-Winter Weather

CONTROL YOUR CHICKWEED NOW!

Fall herbicide programs are less expensive, have more flexibility, and in most cases are more effective than those applied in the spring. Plan for next year now. Arrange for us to apply herbicides on your fields this fall to speed up field drying and warming for a spring jump start. FALL HERBICIDE APPLICATION SPECIAL - \$4 per acre.

With total programs, including application, starting at under \$8 per acre, can you afford not to have fall application done?

MAKING THE MOST OF FALL

By all early indications, we hope by the end of this month, to be taking off some exceptional crops. In the next 220 days, give or take a few, you will have to replenish the removed nutrients, control weeds, and prepare a seedbed for the 2007 crop. Of course, many of those days will not be good for any field activities. To be sure you can use the prime days for field work next spring for planting, let's work together to make the most of the good days for field work this fall following harvest.

- SOIL SAMPLING

Before you get busy with harvest, let's sit down to review your current soil tests and plan to sample those fields last tested in 2002 or before.

- LIME PRIORITY

Your primary post harvest application each fall is lime. Lime needs the time over winter to become available to your crops by next spring. Is your soil pH and calcium level adequate to support the yield goals you want and need? Lime is the foundation for balancing your nutrient levels. If you do nothing else this fall, spread lime where it's called for...ahead of any tillage you plan.

- FERTILIZE FOR BALANCE

Strong roots are the key to maximizing the yield and performance benefits of the new corn rootworm resistant genetics. Let's discuss a recommendation to assure your potash (K) levels are adequate and in balance with other soil nutrients to achieve your potential yield in 2007. And, arrange for application following harvest and ahead of any tillage.

- START WEED CONTROL THIS FALL

Last spring, many customers said..."I wish I would have sprayed weeds last fall." **It's fall now!** You can take pressure off your spring pre-plant schedule by taking control of late fall weeds and winter annuals following harvest. We have a choice of herbicides that can be sprayed in the fall to avoid weed problems that come up in early spring.

Fall field work assures a smoother spring!

WEATHER OUTLOOK...FALL THROUGH WINTER

Here's your September Weather Almanac as prepared by consulting meteorologist Frank Watson.

September Weather Forecast

Temperatures are favored to average above normal and precipitation is expected to total below normal during the month ahead.

Fair weather is favored for the opening weekend of the forecast period with scattered precipitation from Friday through Sunday, September 1-3.

Nice weather with considerable sunshine is expected on Monday and Tuesday, September 4-5.

Scattered showers and thunderstorms are favored to pass through the region from Wednesday through Saturday, September 6-9. Light to moderate rainfall totals are possible.

Fair skies with plenty of sun and warm temperatures are favored from Sunday through Tuesday, September 10-12.

An extended period of precipitation activity is expected over much of the region from Wednesday through Wednesday, September 13-20. Most likely this will be the wettest period of the month.

Precipitation totals are favored to be locally heavy with temperatures cooling.

Lower possibilities of showers fall on Thursday and Friday, September 21-22. Precipitation activity is expected to be mixed with sun. Rainfall totals should be light.

After a dry weekend, September 23-24, clouds are favored to be on the increase with scattered showers mostly passing over the region from Monday through Wednesday, September 25-27.

Variable clouds with a mix of sun and scattered showers are expected to close out the forecast period from Thursday through Saturday, September 28-30.

October Weather Outlook

Temperatures are favored to average below normal with precipitation totals above normal in our part of the region during October. Favored dates for heavier precipitation center on October 1-2, 7-8, 13, 15-18, 22-23, 26, 28 and 30.

Long Range Weather Outlook...

The end of harvest through the end of winter.

November could show slightly above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation.

December may bring above normal temperatures with below normal precipitation.

January is favored to average below normal temperatures and near normal precipitation totals.

February temperatures and precipitation totals are favored to average near normal.

March may bring below normal temperatures and below normal precipitation.

September Astronomy Calendar

This month has no major meteor showers, but there are two minor showers that may be worth staying up for...the Alpha Aurigids and the Piscids. The Alpha Aurigids peaks on Friday, September 1 with an hourly rate of 7, but in some years hourly rates as high as 30 have been noted. The Piscids peak on Wednesday, September 20 with a peak hourly rate of 3.

With the exception of the Alpha Aurigids meteor shower, the month gets off to a slow start with Venus disappearing from view until late December, as it gets lost in the sun's glare. In the second half of the month events really heat up with spectacular viewing.

At mid-month, Friday, September 15, Mercury and Mars will be close to each other after the sun has set. Saturn, which just became visible in late August, is in view in the morning sky. Look for Saturn in the predawn of September 21. The moon occults with Venus and for most of us it will appear that the moon passes over Venus or at least very close to it.

A triple event occurs on Friday, September 22. This marks the Fall Equinox, a new moon, and the moon at apogee. The Equinox comes late in the day at 11:03PM.

A unique phenomenon takes place on Monday, September 25, between the moon and Earth known as "Earthshine". The moon will be sitting low in the western sky this evening. The sun's rays will be reflected off the Earth's atmosphere and oceans, which faintly illuminates the side of the "dark side" of the moon. You should be able to spot some features not generally viewable.

Moon dates: Full, September 7...Last Quarter, September 14...New, September 22 and First Quarter, September 30.



Scepter DG Rate	2,4-D Rate	Glyphosate rate:	Adjuvant: Rate
2.1-2.8 oz/A	1-2 pt/A	16-24 oz/acre	NIS 1qt/100 and AMS17#/100

Fall Applied Scepter tank-mixes applied following corn on ground going to soybeans provides an economical option to a spring burndown.

No need to worry about soil conditions in the spring.

Warmer, drier spring soils increase no-till soybean establishment.

Eliminates nuisance winter annuals like chickweed and henbit.

HARVEST SCOUTING

We normally don't recommend scouting from inside a vehicle – you really need to get out to see things. But your combine is a unique opportunity to do some valuable scouting from the comfort of your seat. Taking some things with you in the combine can help you finalize this year as well as gather some valuable information for next year. First, make sure you have a pen and notebook handy. Field maps can be very helpful as well for highlighting problem spots. If we have IMAGE'd your fields, let us know and we'll be happy to get you copies of your maps for harvest notetaking. Bring your planter book with too. It's easier to harvest evaluate hybrids if you can know which hybrid is which as it's being harvested. Taking some time now to gather scouting records or jotting down some field notes of what you saw in your fields this year can also help too. Some problems that we saw in spring or summer won't be visible at harvest, but the yield or crop quality results will be. What problems do you see that supports or explains your yield monitor data? Hybrid standability? Stalk damage? Corn borer or rootworm damage? Weed pressure from poor stand, escapes or resistance? Performance/yield comparisons among your corn hybrids and soybean varieties?

Memories get hazy over winter and your harvest notes make your records even more valuable.

TOP HARVEST PRIORITY

Harvest can bring frustration and stress to every farmer. The hours get long.

Machines don't always work as smoothly as you would like. The weather doesn't always cooperate.

Remember, SAFETY in all you do is your most important priority... just ask your wife and kids! Don't take risky shortcuts. Take timely breaks. Think!

TIMELY SEED DECISIONS

This time of year, you are bombarded with appeals to buy seed now...on T-V, radio, from a salesman waiting at the end of the field as you combine. How can you make decisions on your 2007 corn hybrids and soybean varieties when you don't know your 2006 results?

The tremendous genetic advances also mean several of the hybrids and varieties you should be considering for planting next year might not have been grown in the Corn Belt this year!

You only get one shot per year to build your corn and soybean crops! Shouldn't you make critical seed decisions on the basis of all the information you can get?

You don't have to rush. Our early-order/early-pay terms and discounts will still be available after harvest. Use harvest to gather all the information you can so you can make the best decisions...then let's sit down to line up your hybrids and varieties that meet your 2007 yield and performance goals.

ESTIMATING CORN YIELD

Have you made any yield checks yet? Have you compared the hybrids you will be harvesting for corn borer and corn rootworm damage, standability and potential stalk rot to help in prioritize your fields for combining? One tool to help you determine corn hybrid performance before harvest is the following formula developed by the University of Illinois some years ago. This can be a valid guide to help in comparing hybrid variances for early seed decisions as well as have a rough estimate of your yield for planning storage and marketing as we go into fall.

- Count number of harvestable ears per 1/1000th acre.
(17'5" in 30-inch rows – 23'9" in 22-inch rows)
- Count the number of kernel rows per ear on every fifth ear. Calculate the average
- Count the number of kernels per row on each of the same ears.
(NOT including kernels on either the butt or tip that are less than half size.)
- Determine yield with this formula:

$$\frac{(\text{ear \#} \times (\text{average row}) \times (\text{average kernel \#}))}{90}$$

90

NOTE: With poor grain fill conditions, yield will be overestimated...with good grain fill conditions, yield will be underestimated.

Area Normals for the Month

SEPTEMBER 3 - 9
AVD. HIGH..... 78
AVG. LOW..... 59
SUNSHINE..... 68
% DAYLIGHT HOURS
Precipitation .81

SEPT 10 - 16
AVD. HIGH..... 75
AVD. LOW..... 56
SUNSHINE..... 65
% DAYLIGHT HOURS
Precipitation .81

SEPT 17 - 23
AVD. HIGH..... 70
AVD. LOW..... 52
SUNSHINE..... 65
% DAYLIGHT HOURS
Precipitation .86

SEPT 24 - 30
AVD. HIGH..... 70
AVD. LOW..... 50
SUNSHINE..... 64
% DAYLIGHT HOURS
Precipitation .82

OCTOBER 1 - 7
AVD. HIGH..... 66
AVD. LOW..... 47
SUNSHINE..... 63
% DAYLIGHT HOURS
Precipitation .75

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