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WEATHER ALMANAC

October 2006

This Month's Issue Includes:

- Combine College
- Starting Spring – This Fall
- Timely Seed Decisions
- September/Fall-Winter Weather

NUMBER ONE HARVEST PRIORITY

The month ahead will see most area corn and soybean fields combined. Any breaks due to wet conditions can raise frustration and test your patience...remember, we will have time to bring in this harvest! As temperatures cool, you'll be adding layers of clothing...be sure you don't wear torn or too loose clothing when working around moving machinery. Keep all machinery guards in place. Take regular breaks and try to eat regular meals during these upcoming long days in the combine cab to avoid drowsiness and fatigue. Watch overhead wires as you move augers and machinery with high clearance in transit. Keep in touch with family and co-workers as you work alone to avoid having something happen and not be discovered quickly. Be Careful Out There!

COMBINE COLLEGE

There are still things to be learned from your crops and fields as you combine your corn and soybeans this fall. Keep your notebook handy to make notes as you see things...it's one of your best tools when it comes time to plan for next year.

One concern every fall is hybrid standability and ear retention. How do your different hybrids stand up to this test? Do you have fields that need to be rescheduled earlier to avoid lodging or down corn? Don't leave crop in the field to reduce yield and create potential volunteer corn (weeds) next season.

Do you have Bur Cucumber and Giant Ragweed patches in your soybeans or corn going back to corn? If you have them this fall you will have them next season. These may be good fields to plant with Roundup Ready corn in 2007 to remove these nutrient and moisture robbers from competition with your crop.

Make notes from your yield monitor on any areas in a field that need special attention by soil testing or lime and fertilizer application.

Most of all, pay close attention to the performance of each of your hybrids and varieties. With the short average 3-year life of seed numbers, your harvest results are more important than ever in forming your basis for seed decisions for next year. Don't be bullied by some seed salesman telling you that you "have to have" certain genetics. We believe your best choices for next year are based on yield/performance this year.

Our goal is provide you with as many good seed choices as possible with the best genetics and traits to reach your yield, performance, and profit goal.

LET US BE YOUR "EXTRA MAN" THIS FALL

We have the equipment and people to help you this fall. From grain trucking and moving, opening up your operation to new markets, to IMAGE Services, to Custom Application Services, we can help you spend more time in the field doing what only you can – harvest! Call us to see how we can be your "Extra Man" this fall.

WEATHER OUTLOOK...LATE FALL THROUGH WINTER:

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

October Weather Forecast

Temperatures and precipitation are favored to average below normal around the southern Lake Michigan area this month.

Clouds and showers are favored to open the forecast period on Sunday and Monday, October 1-2. I wouldn't be surprised to see a few reports of snow as temperatures cool.

Mostly cloudy skies and scattered precipitation are expected from Tuesday to Friday, October 3-6. Precipitation is expected to be light with cool temperatures.

Clouds and showers are favored over the western Great Lakes for the weekend of October 7-8. Soaking rains are possible.

Fair skies are in store for the week, Monday to Friday, October 9-13. Precipitation, if any, should be light and scattered.

Clouds are expected to be on the increase with good prospects for precipitation from Saturday to Thursday, October 14-19. Heavier precipitation totals are favored over the eastern half of the Great Lakes with temperatures turning colder.

Scattered showers are favored from Friday to Monday, October 20-23. Heavier precipitation totals are expected over our region...the western half of the Great Lakes. Temperatures should warm then cool off.

Clouds and showers are expected to move through the region from Tuesday to Monday, October 24-30. Precipitation totals should be light to moderate with temperatures averaging near normal.

Fair skies are favored for Halloween, Tuesday, October 31.

November Weather Outlook...

Temperatures are expected to average near normal with precipitation totals below normal in our part of the region during November. Favored dates for heavier precipitation center on November 1-2, 4-5, 11, 19, 24-27 and 30.

Long Range Weather Outlook...

The end of the year through the beginning of spring.

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.

April could show near normal temperatures with below normal precipitation.

October Astronomy Calendar

Its harvest time! And the Harvest Moon is early this month, occurring Friday, October 6. Not only is the moon full this night but it is also at perigee, so it will shine a little brighter. Normally, the moon clears the horizon 50 minutes later each night after a full moon, but this time of year the delay is just 20 minutes. Because of this added extra light, the name "Harvest Moon" originated because it allows farmers more time for field work. Of course, field combines are now equipped with floodlights for night work.

The full moon may look a little more orange this time of year. There are reasons for this. The moon is lower in the sky and its light must pass through more of the Earth's atmosphere and the act of harvesting produces dust that rises into the sky producing a coloring effect.

We go 10 days for our next viewing opportunity. Venus lies 3 degrees of the Sun and 4 degrees of Mars on Monday, October 16. Try to catch this before sunrise.

OK, the 10-day period of not viewing anything in the sky was a bit extreme. There is ALWAYS something going on above us. Starting early in the month but peaking in the hours before sunrise on the morning of Saturday, October 21, is the Orionid meteor shower. Debris from the Comet Halley, the meteor shower begins before midnight of the 20th and produces an average of 10-20 meteors per hour. Look south-southeast for best viewing. As the moon is new on Sunday, October 22, the sky should be dark for the Orionid shower, barring clouds.

Last month I talked about "Earthshine" where the sun's rays reflect off the Earth's atmosphere and oceans and faintly illuminates the "dark side" of the Moon enabling you to spot some features not generally viewable. This month Earthshine, aka the "da Vinci effect", is on Tuesday, October 24. The setting Moon will be just a slight sliver in the sky in the evening hour after sunset with Jupiter and Mercury nearby.

Moon phases

*Full...October 6 - Last Quarter..October 13
New Moon..October 22 – First Quarter..October 29*

EVALUATION OF YIELDGARD ROOTWORM TECHNOLOGY & INSECTICIDES

Ohio State University conducted a trial in 2006 to evaluate a YieldGard Rootworm Hybrid compared to its isoline for their efficacy against corn rootworm larvae. The isoline hybrid was treated with two different insecticides as well as an untreated check. Visit www.farmfert.com for the complete results & proceedings.

Rootworm feeding injury was evaluated in all trials by randomly digging 5 roots per replicate for each treatment. Roots were washed, examined for corn rootworm larval feeding injury and rated in accordance with the 0-3 Node Injury Scale. Injury ratings followed by the same letter are not significantly different (P=0.05).

Results are shown in the following table for our primary insecticide recommendations against the transgenic and untreated check. The rootworm injury in this trial was very heavy with the untreated check averaging 1.81. There were significant differences in root rating among the treatments and all of the treatments had significantly less root injury as compared to the check. Lodging counts and yields will be made this fall at plot harvest.

Products	Application Rate	Placement	Node-Injury Scale	% Consistency
Defcon 2.1G	6.7 oz/1000 row ft	T-Band	0.37abc	100
Defcon 2.1G	6.7 oz/1000 row ft	In Furrow	0.73cde	65
Force 3G	4 oz/1000 row ft	T-Band	0.38abd	85
DeKalb DKC61-68 (RR2/GRW)		Transgenic	0.46abcd	75
Untreated			1.81g	1

FREE UP SPRING THIS FALL

Using the best days of spring for planting is the result of using the best days in fall following harvest for lime, fertilizer, and weed control ahead of tillage. Based on early reports, we are taking off some pretty good yields.

IMAGE Services is a quick and easy way to get samples, maps, and recommendations for your crop needs. Contact us today to get on our IMAGE Sampling list.

If your soil tests were last made in 2002 or before, call at once to get on our list to pull samples as soon as you drive your combine out of the field. We can print a report of all your samples taken in a particular year for easy records of what has been pulled, and when.

Fertilizer application rates haven't changed much from one year to the next recently. At the same time, yield potential and yield averages have been rising in some cases dramatically. This creates a nutrient deficit that can't continue for long. It will cost to provide complete and balanced fertility for

your crops...but it will also cost to not have complete and balanced nutrients available to push your yield toward optimum potential. With our generally excellent 2006 yields, we need to remember the "Law of the Minimum" ...yield will be determined by the nutrient present at the most limiting level.

Recommendations should be based on your current soil test along with your yield average over the past 3-5 years PLUS your best yield taken off that field. This is a fertilizer rate designed to produce optimum yield in the 2007-2008 crop cycle. Don't starve your high value seed and management and risk limiting potential yield.

Spraying weeds this fall is another way to free up time ahead of planting next spring as well as take out early competition for water and nutrients needed for your new crop. See us for a timely, economical fall weed control recommendation.

We can spread lime and fertilizer as soon as the crop is removed and ahead of any tillage (and bad weather) plus follow-up with weed control for winter annuals to put you one big step closer to timely planting next spring!



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.

Area Normals For The Month

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

OCTOBER 8 - 14
 AVD. HIGH.....**63**
 AVD. LOW..... **44**
 SUNSHINE **61**
 % DAYLIGHT HOURS
 Precipitation **.72**

OCTOBER 15 - 21
 AVD. HIGH.....**60**
 AVD. LOW..... **43**
 SUNSHINE **58**
 % DAYLIGHT HOURS
 Precipitation **.69**

OCTOBER 16 - 28
 AVD. HIGH.....**59**
 AVD. LOW..... **41**
 SUNSHINE..... **52**
 % DAYLIGHT HOURS
 Precipitation **.66**

OCT 29 – Nov 4
 AVD. HIGH.....**56**
 AVD. LOW..... **39**
 SUNSHINE..... **48**
 % DAYLIGHT HOURS
 Precipitation **.63**

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