

Danville Co-op Agronomy News – June 2010

Well, as of this writing, the corn has been side-dressed and sprayed for the last time before canopy occurs. With the recent rains, we are seeing the rapid growth in the corn that we should see at this point in time in development. The full season soybeans have also started to grow rapidly with the coming of warmer soils and moisture. It seems as if we've gotten off to a good start to the summer growing season.

Scout your fields! It's very difficult and expensive to kill a 12" weed. We can normally take care of a 4" weed. Also, keep in mind that with good growing conditions, a weed could grow 1"-2" per day. If it takes 2 days to get to your order, or longer if it rains or the wind blows for several days, then that weed may well be beyond control parameters. A wise man will use a residual herbicide when given a chance, or spray early and often. Don't let weeds rob you of your prior inputs and yields.

Early weed control starts after wheat harvest. If you are ever going to rotate your cropping program to anything other than wheat, you must control summer weeds after wheat harvest. Some of the Palmer pigweeds, marestail, crabgrass and sedges can be controlled if the cycle of growth is broken. Think about how a particular weed species grows, and what time of the year that you can control them (when they are small), then mark your calendar of control to match the weed. Some of the weeds we have that are very hard to kill in a row crop are marestail, yellow nutsedge, common pokeweed and Palmer amaranth. There are others on the list, but everyone has their own list based on how they crop.

As some have noticed, we have acquired a new dry spreader recently. This is a unique unit in that it has the capability to apply three different products at one time at variable rates. It also does this with auto-steer and auto-swath control. The reason we have purchased this type of equipment is to increase your efficiency in the field by applying your nutrients and field inputs in the right place instead of broadcasting them randomly. We feel that precision testing and precision application are now affordable and has multiple uses in our cropping program. This will be a learning process to some and to others an immediate efficiency tool. We will be planning some seminar style meetings in the near future, please let us know of your interest in our program as we vision fairly small class sizes in our informational presentation.

Ramping up our service level to meet your needs and bringing new technology to your farm is the goal of our Co-op. Please give us the opportunity to earn your trust. We really do appreciate and Thank You for your business

Ron Kenney, CCA