This newsletter and the advice herein are free. You usually get what you pay for.

**Crop weather**
Rainfall, air and soil temperatures, degree-days, soil moistures, and other current and historical weather data for a little spot about two miles west of Lamberton, MN can be found at the University of Minnesota *Southwest Research and Outreach Center (SWROC)* website: [http://swroc.cfans.umn.edu/WeatherInformation/index.htm](http://swroc.cfans.umn.edu/WeatherInformation/index.htm).

The Lamberton location accumulated 371 Growing Degree Days (base 50°F) from May 1 through June 4. For those of you that planted early 29 GDD were accumulated from April 15 to May 1.

We have had 6.25 inches of precipitation since May 1. Herbicide applications continue to be weather challenged for some, myself included. Standing water in fields on or near the SWROC has been minimal - so far.

Some crop stages for earliest planted/emerged crops were:

**Corn**  
5 collars  
Purple and yellow corn reports have started as nodal root development begins and wet soils have slowed root development. These should look soon look better as growth continues.

**Soybean**  
V1-V2 for early planted  
In spite of recent wet conditions in some fields, roots and shoots are still relatively healthy.
Some, if not all soybean aphids have made the move from buckthorn to soybeans in SW Minnesota and the SWROC. Student workers Aaron and Tyler found these young female aphids on some volunteer soybeans near buckthorn today. A winged female probably deposited them a couple days ago.

We need to wait and see what weather, predators, parasites and disease can do to keep soybean aphid populations low in 2015.

It is too early to get serious about soybean aphid scouting. These few early colonizers are a long way from any soybean field needing an insecticide application to protect yield.

Some might have a different opinion on when to start treating aphids. They would most often be wrong from a return on investment aspect. The 250 aphid/plant average is still a good place to start.

**Winter wheat**

*Boot - Heading depending on maturity*

Expect some *Fusarium* head blight, leaf rust and stripe rust if wet weather continues. Some varieties should be flowering soon.

**Spring wheat and oats**

*Boot*

Bird-cherry oat aphid populations are starting to build. Nothing economic in the research plots I have looked at but evaluate aphid populations before making a fungicide application. I have not seen any obvious barley yellow dwarf virus (BYDV) infection centers, but individual plants are starting to show BYDV-like symptoms. This virus is transmitted by aphids, and symptoms are more severe with early infection of oats, wheat and barley.
Some leaf tips and edges are showing damage from wind and some slight yellowing and streaking where water stood could be confused with disease.

Leaf diseases remain minor at this point but pay close attention to *Fusarium* head blight (scab). One fungicide application timed for scab may be enough in much of Southwest MN. I don't look at many wheat fields so the situation on your farms could be completely different.

**Oats**

See comments on wheat above

**Alfalfa**

Alfalfa weevil are the current pest of interest in SW MN. Early this week, we shot a quick YouTube alfalfa stem sampling video. Emily Neperman at the SWROC performed the herculean task editing through wind noise and my stammering, and poorly chosen words. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of alfalfa weevil were harmed during the production of this video.

Check re-growth for weevils, particularly where slow to green up. Potato leafhoppers and other potential insect pest are present but only in low, non-economic numbers in SWROC alfalfa.

Happy trails,

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