



The Clunette Kernel

There may still be snow on the ground; however, spring is rapidly approaching. Before you run and get the planter out sit down with the latest edition of the Clunette Kernel!

Looking back at 2009

Looking back at 2009 we notice the trend of “Challenges” that we as growers were faced with throughout the growing season. It is safe to say that Mother Nature definitely didn’t take it easy on us last year. From the wet spring to the cool and dry summer to an even wetter fall, it was just one thing after another. Each of these challenges has left us with potential problems to face for the following year. So what can we expect for 2010 you ask?

If you recall white mold pressure in soybeans was considerably heavy after the large amount of rain we saw at the first of August. White mold does over winter in crop residues, so a good control method to practice is crop rotation. This is a proven control method that works well at combating what could potentially be a serious problem for this year. Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS) is another disease that also over winters in crop residues. So if you are concerned about potentially heavy pressure again crop rotation is a good control method to practice. Remember these diseases do produce spores that can live in the soil for several years so one year of crop rotation won’t completely eradicate

this problem, but it does help. Looking for varieties of soybeans that are fairly resistant to these diseases is a good control method as well.

The Facts on Vomitoxin

Most of us are aware of the problem we have with Vomitoxin this year but what exactly are the facts? What is Vomitoxin and how did we come to have this problem? More importantly what do we do about it?

Vomitoxin is the most commonly encountered mycotoxin. What is a mycotoxin you ask? A mycotoxin is a toxin produced by a fungus, most but not all can cause either injury or illness to animals or humans. Vomitoxin originates from Fusarium and Gibberella Ear Rots. If you recall from our fall edition of the Kernel, Gibberella Ear Rot (GER) is a white to pinkish mold that starts at the tip of an ear of corn and works its way down. GER infection occurs through the silks of the ear. Fusarium Ear Rot (FER) is another white to pinkish mold that eventually turns the caps of the corn kernels grey in color. FER can be found scattered throughout an ear instead of starting at a tip since infection usually occurs due to insect or other environmental damage.

With this information let us step back in time and analyze the conditions we had around silking. Temperatures during that time were consistently between 75 and 85

degrees Fahrenheit with humidity between 10 and 20%. This is the optimum temperature and humidity range for these molds to grow and grow fast. These conditions lasted longer than 7 to 10 days which is all that is required for fungus infection and growth to occur. While the mold grows during the warm daytime hours these toxins are being produced during the cooler nighttime hours. These toxins are the byproduct of the spores produced by the fungus and they infect the starch of the kernels. Here is where the problem lies.

Since Vomitoxin is heat stable and water soluble once it's in the starch there is no getting rid of it. So anything that this corn is used for will have Vomitoxin in it which creates a problem due to the fact that animals and humans are both sensitive to this mycotoxin.

Sampling is done to give grain handlers an idea of how high a level of Vomitoxin they may be dealing with. Since Vomitoxin levels can vary from kernel to kernel sampling becomes a challenge especially when there are no exact guidelines and regulations in place on the method and way of taking a sample. Samples should be representative of the entire load of corn, taking into account the length and depth of the container it's hauled in with. Growers should remember however that no matter how exact your sampling method is you will still have a variance in your tested Vomitoxin levels per sample. For further information or questions regarding Vomitoxin and testing please contact Gabe or Meredith or visit www.gipsa.usda.gov/GIPSA/documents/GIPSA_Documents/don.pdf.

Corn Nematode Help

When you hear the word "nematode" usually you think soybean cyst nematodes, but nematodes can also cause damage in corn as well. Usually damage, disease and yield loss caused by corn nematodes is overlooked and often miss diagnosed. So why has there been a sudden increase in corn nematodes you ask? Simple, with many farmers switching to a corn back to corn rotation due to crop prices, as well as the decreased use of soil insecticides corn nematodes are thriving.

Unlike soybean cyst nematodes there are several different types of corn nematodes which vary in the level of damage they cause. The most common types we see around here are Needle which are high-risk, Lesion which are moderate-risk, and Spiral which are low-risk. It's also important to remember that corn nematodes are not only present in sandy soils, they can be found in every soil type. Damage can be anything from thin stands, uneven plant height, stunted plants, to discoloration especially a yellowing of leaf tissue. As you can see this damage can easily be misdiagnosed for problems such as weather stress, nutrient deficiencies, insect injury, herbicide damage, and compaction. If you suspect corn nematodes, sampling should be done to verify that it is actually them. So what can you do if you have corn nematodes you ask?

Avicta Complete is a new seed treatment made by syngenta that protects against corn nematodes as well as other insects and disease. It is a unique combination of a

nematicide, and insecticide as well as three fungicides. It's applied directly to the seed by your seed company just like the soybean seed treatments are. More importantly are the results that you will see with using Avicta Complete, such as; increase stand and uniformity and early plant vigor. It's important to protect the seed while it is in the ground prior to germination, and give it every advantage you possibly can. For further questions about corn nematodes or about Avicta Complete please contact Gabe, Jared, or Meredith.

2010 Fertilizer Outlook

Nitrogen has gone up in price since last July's low and supplies are looking tight for this spring. Phosphates have also gone up in price since they hit their low point in last October; supplies are also looking tight for this spring. Potash hit a low in early January increases are forecasted for March 1st. Supply on Potash looks good though for this spring.

In general fertilizer prices are lower than they were last year which is always good news. Supplies will be tight simply due to the fact that so little fertilizer was spread this fall due to the wet weather we had. The concern is that with an early spring, logistics will be a problem.

Fortunately we have been able to protect our customers with inventory and pre-paid product at different locations by both rail and truck. If you have any questions on fertilizer and fertilizer prices please contact Gabe, John or Jared.

Reminders

- If you haven't brought your planter units in now is the time to do so. Spring is rapidly approaching believe it or not so be sure to get your planter units in.
- March 2nd is the date for our Annual Spring Growers Meeting. It will be at the Leesburg Lions Building from 5-8pm. Dinner will be served and applicator points will be available again so be sure to mark your calendars and join us for an educational experience.
- Please visit our website www.clunettelevator.com, it is finally up and running and better than ever!! Sign up and become a member and receive current grain prices either via email or text message as well as have access to scouting reports and many other useful tools. For questions please contact Meredith.
- If you are interested in Spring Soil Sampling now is the time be contact either Gabe or Jared to get plans arranged and set up. Spring will be here before you know it so don't delay!!
- With spring right around the corner now is the time to be making your spring plans and getting prepay in. If you haven't met with Gabe or Jared please call in and make an appointment today

Quote of the Season

"It is better to know some of the questions than all of the answers."

James Thurber (1894 - 1961)

