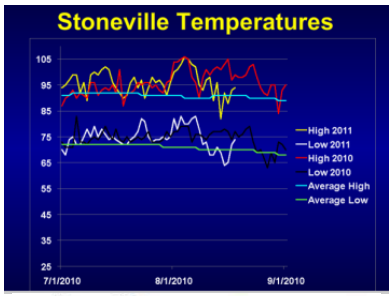
AgVenture

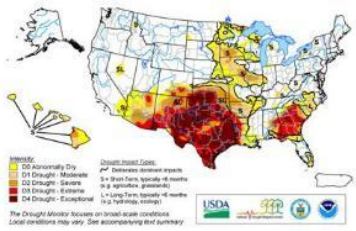
Seeds *for* Success
Agronomy Update

VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 11 • NOVEMBER 2011

Agronomy Update is a monthly publication provided to producers free of charge. AgVenture, Inc. and its independently owned and operated Regional Seed Companies are dedicated to providing producers exceptional seed products -- genetics and technologies, professional service, and local knowledge of agronomic conditions impacting producer profitability.

Grow with Confidence!





Tell Tale Temperatures

Looking back at the 2011 growing season, a graph of average high and low temperatures at Stoneville, Mississippi proves that compared to 2010 growing conditions, this summer was hot across much of the Mid-South and South. High daytime and night time temperatures can cause exceptional plant stress, particularly when they occur during crops' reproductive periods. The USDA's drought map shows the extent of drought and drought-like conditions across the country.

AgVenture reminds growers that you can't plan for next crop season based on this season's results. Talk with your AgVenture Yield Specialist to evaluate hybrid and variety selection to optimize your profitability for the 2012 crop (Sources: Mississippi State University and USDA).

Test Weights and Planning Ahead

Lower than expected test weights may be the result of a variety of crop stresses that pressured corn late in the season. Where the crop experienced heat and/or drought stress, and late season foliar leaf diseases including gray leaf spot and northern corn leaf blight successful completion of grain fill was interrupted. Subsequently, less than optimal starch deposition was made in the kernels. Ear rots are another key contributor to lower test weights. Fungal growth infecting kernels compromises kernel integrity and results in light-weight grain. Several diseases have inoculum that can overwinter in a field. Talk with you AgVenture Yield Specialist about selecting hybrids with the disease resistance package suited to your fields.

The Importance of Soil pH

Soil pH plays an important role in determining micronutrient availability to crops. If the pH is too low, the soil cannot make micronutrients available to the crop. Sandy and sandy loam soils commonly suffer from low pH. Clay soils may be high in pH, which often requires the addition of micronutrients including zinc and manganese. Crops such as soybeans and alfalfa are sensitive to pH and grow best in soils where pH is 6.5 to 7.0. Corn pH is considered best in a range of 6.5 to 6.8.

Liming Considerations

Many soils are constantly becoming more acidic. A typical nitrogen application to corn creates the equivalent of about 500 lbs. of lime requirement each year. Soil testing is the best way to determine pH, whether lime is recommended, and how much is needed per acre, based on the specific soil type and crop to be grown. Be sure to adjust liming rates to limestone quality. Regular liming is especially important for no-till situations – where it is easier to maintain soil pH than to correct low pH in no-till ground. Rental ground is often a concern regarding pH, especially in a year-to-year rental situation. That's because lime is considered slow to adjust pH but has several years of useful benefits.

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AgVenture, Inc.

is the nation's largest network of independently owned regional seed companies. Based in Kentland, Indiana, AgVenture provides a growing network of independently owned and managed regional seed companies with seed products meeting exacting standards for quality, together with leading-edge genetics and technology.

Since 1983, this unique marketing approach has allowed each individual company to match the hybrids it sells to the specific needs of the geographical area it serves. Combined with professional seed representation at a local level, AgVenture strives to help every grower realize more profit from every field.

Grow with Confidence!

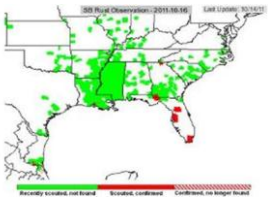
Applying Anhydrous Ammonia in Dry Soils

Anhydrous ammonia (NH3) can be applied to dry soils, but there are some special considerations. If you apply anhydrous and can still smell ammonia after the first round of application, you should consider making adjustments or waiting for better conditions. Ammonia escapes where soil breaks into clods, or where there isn't good coverage of the knife track in loose soils. Remember, you're paying for the application. Be sure you are getting full benefit of your application.

Quiet Year for Soybean Rust

Soybean rust did not advance much at all during 2011. Three conditions must be present for Soybean rust to advance. It must survive winter in the South, build up inoculum where it occurs, and move to other fields. Extreme dry conditions helped limit or eliminate Soybean rust's spread during 2011. Plant pathologists say Soybean rust will need to become reestablished on kudzu before it is again a threat to the South.

Current Distribution of Soybean Rust (http://sbusa.net)



Winterize Irrigation Equipment

Making the time to inspect, repair and update irrigation equipment now can save time and money next season. Repairs and/or improvements often take precious time waiting for parts, etc. Park pivots in a safe location in the field to discourage wire theft. Less wind damage occurs when parked into or away from the wind direction as opposed to perpendicular parking. Drain pivots to assure automatic frost drains are not plugged. Clean rock traps, supply lines and hoses. Capping all large openings prevents bird nesting. Service the engines and cooling systems. Work with your manufacturer to create a winter work list for each system. It pays to be prepared.

Seed Treatment Update

AgVenture Security™ Seed Treatment Package now includes Poncho® 500 insecticide. AgVenture's Scott Hart said, "We're very pleased to make this offering to growers. The Poncho 500 offers better protection of your seed investment and an excellent return on investment." In addition to early season seed and seedling protection from damage caused by wireworm, black cutworm and other early season insects, Hart noted research showing seed treated with Poncho 500:

- ✓ Produced nearly 500 more plants per acre than Poncho® 250
- ✓ Increased yields an average of 10/bu/A compared to fungicide check
- ✓ Increased yield by 4 bu/A (21 trials) when compared to Poncho 250 with no known insect problems identified
- ✓ No concerns about seed safety or carryover

Hart said, "It is time to make these important decisions and maximize your profitability potential. We strongly encourage growers to talk with your AgVenture Yield Specialist about choosing the best seed protection package available for your acres." *Security™ Seed Treatment is a registered trademark of AgVenture, Inc. Poncho® is a registered trademark of Bayer CropScience.*

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