Badger Crop Connect Special- June 9, 2023
Questions, Answers, and Resources

Corn Agronomy Resources

http://corn.agronomy.wisc.edu/Season/Default.aspx

Soybean and Small Grain Agronomy Resources

https://coolbean.info/2023/06/08/impact-of-early-season-drought-on-soybean-yieldios-on-early-season-soybean/

Question: *What about wheat? Is it suffering yet?*

Conley- In dry springs wheat yield is actually very high. Low disease and minimal lodging = good-great wheat yields.

Alternative Forage Resources

https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/forage/alternative-forage-crops/

Annual warm season forages

https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/forage/sorghums-sudangrass-and-sorghum-sudan-hybrids/

Grazing management in drought

https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=C914

Question: *Growers are asking about putting manure on grass/alfalfa fields. Do we need to be concerned with burning foliage of the next crop?*

Dan Smith- Limiting the application rate to 3000 gallons or less per acre and focusing on an even application pattern is important. I would be hesitant to apply manure if much regrowth has occurred.

Pest Management Resources

Smith- From a disease perspective we are watching the Fusarium head blight risk in wheat right now. Most wheat is through or at anthesis. Currently, the risk is very low in Wisconsin based on the FHB Prediction center, https://www.wheatscab.psu.edu. Looking ahead, I do not think we need to spray fungicide on wheat, unless you are worried about powdery mildew on a susceptible variety. If you think you need to spray, don't get fancy. See my article here on this subject, https://badgercropdoc.com/2023/05/31/wisconsin-winter-wheat-disease-update-may-31-2023/.

Smith- In general, using fungicides on water-stressed crops will not provide a high percentage of ROI. Plants need other resources to respond to a perceived "plant health benefit" that a fungicide might provide. Think about yourself, you can take all the medicine you want, but unless you eat right and drink fluids, your body isn't going to respond to the medicine. A popular press article (2012; the last drought year) based on Illinois data clearly shows that using fungicides in drought stressed corn does not produce higher yields compared to untreated. The likelihood of getting a positive ROI from fungicide application increases as the risk of disease increases and we are not at risk currently. Research suggests saving the money you might spend on early season fungicide application could be put to better use somewhere else. Keep watching and anticipating the future weather conditions as environmental changes directly influence the

risk of pathogen populations increasing. (https://www.farmprogress.com/crop-protection/do-drought-stressed-crops-still-need-fungicides-)
Damon Smith, damon.smith@wisc.edu

Conley- Soybean aphids are starting to move to soybean, but the numbers are low. I did get a call from MO about two spotted spider mites. I would hold off on those applications as soybeans are still actively growing and soybeans can take leaf loss at this crop growth stage and still not impact yield.

Question: Joe mentioned that dry weather may impact efficacy of PPI and PRE herbicides. What is the relative timeframe for effective herbicide residual weed control? How do droughty conditions affect the uptake of POST applied herbicides?
Lauer- This question is a good question for Rodrigo, some herbicides can be a stress in and of themselves, however, these are usually PPI or PRE. Post-applied herbicides will likely be safe but can also likely vary in their potential effect. As always follow, label recommendations.
Conley- Here is a good article, https://www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/ag-hub/ag-topics/crop-production/diseases-pests-and-weeds/plant-diseases/herbicide-applications-hot
Rodrigo Werle, rwerle@wisc.edu

Question: With a month of southerly wind patterns, we have had potato leafhoppers infest new seeding alfalfa and yesterday I saw many in established alfalfa fields. Drought conditions tend to favor two spotted spider mites and increased populations of soybean aphids. Are there any other pests that dry weather favors that we need to be aware of?
Jarek- We have been fortunate for the past few years that leafhoppers, while present in some locations that required treatment, generally they causing damage at levels previous seen. This year is different, significant leafhopper damage to new seeding stands can not only reduce yield in establishment year but will continue to impact DM yields for the life of the stand.
https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/forage/cut-bale-scout/
Lauer- Typically, European corn borer tends to be worse in drought years. Transgenic corn has largely solved this issue. However, in fields that are non-GMO, you may want to scout more frequently for ECB.

Weather Condition Monitoring Resources

All-in-one drought monitoring site (Drought.gov)
https://www.drought.gov/states/wisconsin
Wisconsin State Climatology Office
https://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/
Follow the State Climate Office on Twitter:
@WI_ClimateSCO
Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR)
https://droughtimpacts.unl.edu/Tools/ConditionMonitoringObservations.aspx
Wisconsin CoCoRaHS Network monitoring reports
https://www.cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=condition
Drought monitoring

Select Wisconsin in the “By Location” drop-down menu and then select Hay, Soybean, or Corn in the “By Sector” drop-down menu
https://www.drought.gov/
Select Row Crops, Livestock and Forage, or Specialty Crops and then select information as Data, Table, or Map.
https://agindrought.unl.edu/

Grower Programs and Market Assistance Resources

National Agricultural Statistics Service (Crop Progress & Condition Weekly Reports)
https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Wisconsin/Publications/Crop_Progress&Condition/
https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/index
Keep an eye on the Hay Market Report
https://cropsandsoils.extension.wisc.edu/hay-market-report/
Tools to help you calculate hay prices
https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/forage/economics/
Farmer to Farmer Network, Buy or Sell hay, silage, high moisture grain, or bedding
https://farmertofarmer.extension.wisc.edu/

Question: We are getting calls regarding prevent plant due to hard/dry conditions. Insurance companies will not accept PP due to dry/drought conditions without a 3rd party opinion. What are your thoughts? Specifically, for growers that are practicing no till and/or planting into a cover crop.
Mitchell- Contact your regional crops educator and ask for assistance with this process. Often state agronomy specialists and I are also included to assist with completing the required paperwork for an RMA modification.

Question: What about the availability of ‘waters of the state’ for emergency irrigation?
Kamps- A DNR individual permit is required to withdraw water from streams or lakes with stream outlets for the purpose of irrigation or agriculture. The process for accessing these waters for emergency irrigation in poor crop conditions is not differentiated in the attached resources. https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Waterways/water_levels_crossings/irrigation.html

Question: If we receive reports of drought conditions from folks across the state, is it appropriate to send them to their local FSA office for reporting through the CoCoRahs network to add validation to the US Drought Monitor?
Schriefer- Start with the local FSA office and as we see more reports, this will be filtered up through the US Drought Monitor. The State FSA Office does follow the Drought Monitor closely.
https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/index

Question: Are there CCA credits available for this morning?
Clark- You can self-report this session for CCA CEU’s. Please contact a member of the Badger Crop Connect team if you would like assistance.

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