July 28, 2015

To: Those Involved in Corn and Grain Sorghum Production

**Feed Grains Pest Alert**

The corn crop in Clay County as a whole is in very good shape. We have just terminated irrigation on the earliest planted fields and other than a few fields the yield potential looks to be pretty good. Grain Sorghum is also looking very good in our area and yields should be very good. Non-irrigated grain sorghum has received several good rains and looks to be an awful good crop too this year.

**Insects** - There are still several insects we need to be watching for in grain sorghum. Most fields have headed and bloomed but there are still several late fields that are just beginning to head. As these fields reach the bloom stage continue to scout for midge and treat if one sorghum midge is found per head. We haven’t found any fields that needed treatment for midge but scouting is still recommended and blanket treatment for midge is not recommended just because you have decided to spray a fungicide etc. The white sugar cane aphid that can be damaging to grain sorghum was found on Thursday July 23rd in the Reyno area. It was very low levels and we haven’t found any significant levels of this aphid in the county yet. We have found several fields with the yellow sugarcane aphid which is not a harmful pest and there have been some corn leaf aphids mistaken for the white sugarcane aphid. If you are not sure of the different aphids out there give us a call or get someone who is experienced in identifying aphids to help you determine which one you have before you decide to treat a field. The white sugarcane aphid is moving north and we need to be scouting for them but don’t panic if you find them. They can be controlled.

Headworms are also being found in some fields. We have scouted several fields where not enough worms to treat were found and others were at treatment threshold. Treat when an average of one corn earworm or armyworm is found per head. A smaller flatter worm that is striped and fuzzy is also present in many fields. This is the sorghum webworm and you must have 5 to 6 per head to justify treating them.

**Disease** - Southern rust is in many corn fields across the county. Most of it has remained in low levels in the field and has not increased drastically. However late planted fields need to be monitored closely and treated if the rust is increasing and you have not reached 25% starch line. Some believe you get added stalk strength from fungicide applications in corn and I have seen this on occasion. I believe this will be more likely to happen if you are planting higher populations such as 36,000 plants per acre or higher. There are some diseases in grain sorghum and depending on who you talk to you may or may not receive a benefit from blanket applications of fungicides on grain sorghum without a disease present. We have found some sooty stripe and target spot in the area. We haven’t found much anthracnose yet and that is good. Fungicides in grain sorghum when needed should be applied between the boot stage and late flowering.
Irrigation Termination - Irrigation in corn can be terminated when the starch line in the kernel has reached 50% or greater in furrow irrigated fields and 75% or greater in pivot fields and you have adequate moisture in the field at that time. In grain sorghum the head should be about 75% mature or dark orange color and the bottom 25% of the head will still be green and you have adequate moisture. This will generally finish you up in both crops.

If you have questions feel free to call us.

For more information, visit our web site at www.uaex.edu/clay or call 857-6875. Find us on facebook.com/uaex.claycorning

Sincerely,

Stewart Runsick
County Extension Agent-Agriculture

Andy Vangilder
County Extension Agent-Staff Chair