Rice Update
Some fields have been drained and many others will be drained this week. As I have monitored several fields for rice stink bugs, numbers have been relatively low this year. Of course there are probably fields out there that have had to be treated. For later maturing fields be sure to continue scouting for rice stink bugs. Many in the county use harvest aids in rice. I wanted to mention a couple of things to consider when using harvest aids. With a lot of green foliage remaining in fields, a number of growers have already used harvest aids to improve desiccation and make harvest easier. Sodium chlorate is a useful tool – used correctly it’s very beneficial, used incorrectly and it causes more problems than it solves. Sodium chlorate should only be applied once grain moisture is below 25% and do not apply if grain moisture is below 18%. After application the foliage begins to dry down and so do the grains. In just a few days you can lose up to 5% grain moisture – so plan to harvest no later than 4-7 days after application. DO NOT apply prior to rainy periods when immediate harvest is not possible.

Soybean Update
WORM ALERT!
Many fields have had to be sprayed recently due to threshold numbers being exceeded for worms such as the corn earworm. Remember thresholds are as follows: Corn Earworm 9 per 25 sweeps, Soybean looper, cabbage looper, velvetbean caterpillar, green cloverworm, and armyworm complex- 29 per 25 sweeps. I have found frogeye leaf spot (FLS) on some susceptible soybean varieties recently. As many of you are aware back in 2012 we documented strobilurin resistant frogeye leaf spot in Lawrence County. This means that the following fungicides are NOT effective on these fungal strains: Quadris, Headline, Aproach, Gem, and Evito, which are all, classified as strobilurin fungicides, hence the name strobilurin-resistant FLS. Soybean varieties that are resistant to FLS are the best and most economical way to manage S-R FLS. Some fungicides that are effective include: Quadris Top, Topsin, and Topguard. See the MP 154 for more options.

Corn and Grain Sorghum Update
SUGAR CANE APHID FOUND IN LAWRENCE COUNTY!
Recently the sugarcane aphid was found in a grain sorghum field in the county. Since then, more fields have been found with this pest. Some fields have been sprayed due to the number of sugarcane aphids exceeding the threshold. How do you scout your field for the sugarcane aphid? This pest is relatively easy to find in a field. Often the first sign that aphids are in a field is the presence of sticky honeydew, the sugary excrement of the aphids, on leaf surfaces), as well as yellow to reddish-brown leaf discoloration. Black sooty mold sometimes grows in the honeydew, which can reduce photosynthesis. Heavy infestations can kill grain sorghum plants or reduce or prevent head emergence, leading to a complete loss of the crop in severe cases. If the plant growth is disrupted by aphids during heading, plants often do not head normally even if aphids are controlled afterward. Feeding by large populations of the aphids during grain fill reduces grain yields by reducing grain size and reduces grain quality by lowering test weight. In addition, large amounts of sticky honeydew can cause harvest losses, as well as increased equipment cleaning and repair costs. This is especially problematic in cases where sugarcane aphids have infested the grain head. Plants that are prematurely killed by aphids are also more prone to late season lodging.
Proper management of the sugarcane aphid in grain sorghum should begin with routine scouting of fields. The population development of this insect is very rapid, and small infestations can escalate out of control in less than one week in some cases. Therefore, two or more visits to the field per week are recommended, particularly if sugarcane aphids have recently been reported in your area. Infestations often begin on field margins but can begin anywhere, and the aphids are usually found on the undersides of leaves. The honeydew, which causes leaves to appear shiny and slick, is often visible on top of leaves just below an aphid colony and is useful in scouting for sugarcane aphids. Population development of the sugarcane aphid often becomes even more rapid in cases where a broad-spectrum insecticide, especially from the pyrethroid class, has been used for management of sorghum midge or other pests. Therefore, scouting and informed decision making for midge and other pest control are critical to avoid unnecessary applications that will increase population growth of sugarcane aphids due to removal of natural enemies. Based on experience last year, spraying a harvest aid on grain sorghum with heavy infestations of sugarcane aphids does not control the aphid. In some cases, applying a harvest aid such as glyphosate or sodium chlorate in the presence of heavy aphid populations has caused the aphids to move up into the head. This has the potential to cause harvest issues, including increased time and costs to clean the harvester, mechanical failures, and reduced harvest efficiency. Spraying Transform insecticide with glyphosate last year 14 days prior to harvest worked well. Keep in mind Transform has a 14 day pre-harvest interval, while Sivanto insecticide has a 21 day pre-harvest interval. If grain sorghum is going to be sprayed with a harvest aid, spray only what you are capable of harvesting in a couple days. You don’t want to spray all of your acreage at once and then it takes 3 weeks to get it all harvested. Once the plant has been killed, it needs to be harvested timely. Last year some fields were sprayed with glyphosate 3 weeks prior to harvest. At harvest they were still standing, but waiting longer would have likely resulted in lodging issues. Once a harvest aid is applied, you are committed to harvesting timely. Glyphosate and sodium chlorate are the main products used. Aim is also labeled as harvest aids in grain sorghum for desiccation of morning glories and other vines. **Gramoxone is NOT labeled as a harvest aid in grain sorghum.** In recent harvest aid studies, glyphosate (Roundup Powermax 22oz/A) has provided the best overall kill of the plant, including desiccation of young green sucker heads. Glyphosate has a 7 day pre-harvest interval and once applied, fields can be harvested approximately 10 days after application if grain moisture is low enough. Glyphosate can be applied to grain sorghum that is mature (30% moisture), but prefer to apply no earlier than 25% moisture to minimize the amount of time the plant has to stand in the field waiting for the grain to dry. Sodium chlorate (3qt/A) is applied closer to harvest, generally 5 days prior to harvest and grain moisture needs to be nearing 14% which is considered dry. Hot and dry conditions are typically needed for the best performance of sodium chlorate. There has been no observed benefit in tank mixing glyphosate and sodium chlorate. If vines or other broadleaf weeds are present, tank mix 1.0-2.0 oz/A Aim with the glyphosate application.

Sincerely,

Herb Ginn
CEA Staff Chair