

To Phillips County Producers:

Southern rust has been detected in Phillips County. Disease incidence and severity was low (one leaf on two plants with 30-40 pustules/leaf; see picture below) on corn at blister to milk growth stage (R2-R3).

Dry conditions will suppress the spread of southern rust as free moisture (dew or light rain) is necessary for spore germination and infection. When conditions favor disease, symptoms appear about 3 to 6 days after infection and by 7 to 10 days the pustules rupture to release rust spores. Conditions that favor disease: warm/hot temperatures (morning low of 75°F and daytime high of 93°F + 4 hr. of consecutive leaf wetness) and extended periods of light rain or heavy dew. When these conditions are not met, disease development will be much slower.

The following pictures and chart can help with identification and fungicide application. Economic advantage of a fungicide decreases as the corn ages. Once at R4 stage, it does not seem to have any economic returns.



**Timing**

Morning low of 75F  
 Daytime high of 93F  
 +  
 Min. 4 hr consecutive leaf wetness

| Beginning Corn Growth Stage | Southern Rust in the Field | Weather Forecast Favors Southern Rust | Benefit from a Fungicide |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| R1 - Silk                   | Yes                        | Yes                                   | Yes                      |
| R2 - Blister                | Yes                        | Yes                                   | Yes                      |
| R3 - Milk                   | Yes                        | Yes                                   | Yes                      |
| R4 - Dough                  | Yes                        | Yes                                   | Maybe                    |
| R5 - Dent                   | Yes                        | Yes                                   | Unlikely                 |
| R6 -Maturity                | Yes                        | Yes                                   | No                       |

This chart shows the number of days from each stage.

**Corn Earworm Trapping Program**

Corn Earworm (bollworm) traps have been increasing over the past week. Page 2 shows the numbers so far with the locations.



| Kernel Growth Stage | Days After Pollination |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Pre-blister         | 9                      |
| Blister             | 13                     |
| Early Milk          | 17                     |
| Milk                | 21                     |
| Late Milk           | 25                     |
| Soft Dough          | 30                     |
| Early Dent          | 35                     |
| Dented              | 40                     |
| Late Dent           | 45                     |
| Half Milk Line      | 50                     |
| Mature              | 55                     |

| <b>Trap Locations</b>                                | <b>Counts ending 7/7</b> | <b>Counts ending 7/15</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pace Hindsley Shop                                   | 5                        | 35                        |
| Mark Hall, Hwy 1 across from Trey Jackson grain bins | 4                        | 150                       |
| Hwy 1 Phillips/Monroe County Line                    | 2                        | 40                        |
| Lake View Spillway                                   | 10                       | 160                       |
| Hwy 85, Lake View                                    | 7                        | 5                         |
| Hwy 44                                               | 0                        | 2                         |
| Hwy 44 & 242 Intersection                            | 5                        | 140                       |
| Hwy 44, Long Lake Plantation                         | 9                        | 3                         |

**MOISTURE SENSOR DEMONSTRATIONS**

As many of you know I have several sets of moisture sensor demonstrations operating in the county. With this dry weather, most of the sensors are calling for water. If you would like to know the locations of these sensors and the readings, please contact me. I will be glad to share the information and graph of each set with you.

**RICE VARIETY DEMONSTRATIONS**

There are two different rice variety demonstrations in the county this year. The first is at Jackie Swindle, Jr.'s across from Mike Montgomery's shop at Lambrook. This is a small plot variety and seeding rate study. The second is a large block study at Mike Montgomery's near his grain bins on Highway 318. By Friday of this week, individual signs should be up so that you can drive by and look at them.

**NEWSLETTERS AND COVID 19**

Because of the COVID 19 issues, we are doing most of our newsletter communication by email. We are still working, but our office is officially closed. Feel free to share this email with other producers who may not be getting this information. If anyone would like to be added to the email list, contact me and I will make sure they are added. Or if you are real brave you can follow me on Twitter [@agentgoodson](#).

If need anything, please give me a call.

Sincerely,



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 County Extension Agent-Agriculture  
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RG:st