

AGFAX: SOUTHERN GRAIN

Corn • Soybeans • Wheat • Grain Sorghum

JUNE 20, 2007

Here is this week's AgFax: Southern Grain.

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OVERVIEW

Rains developed early in the week in drought-stressed portions of the Midsouth and into Alabama. Widely scattered summer showers continue to pop up in Georgia, but moisture is running short in North Carolina and Virginia. Parts of Louisiana received significant rainfall last week.

No widescale insect pressure was reported in corn or beans. Mite pressure, though, is showing up in more Georgia corn.

CROP REPORTS

Mark Mitchell, Mitchell Ag Consulting, Inc., Bainbridge, Ga.: (CORN) "Some corn is at milk stage. We've made some stinkbug applications. For about 3 weeks, we were finding sub-threshold levels, then started seeing hatch outs. Hopefully, that will wind us up on spraying in the corn."

Trent LaMastus, Ind. Consultant, Cleveland, Miss.: (CORN) "Borer moths are picking up just a little, and we're monitoring closely for eggs and worms. We've been watering everything that can be watered. (SOY) Automatic fungicide treatments will start this week on some fields at R3 to R5, and we'll add an insecticide where needed. Bean leaf beetles picked up in the last 7 to 10 days, with a few stinkbugs in the mix."

David L. Wright, Florida Extension Agronomist, Quincy, Fla.: (CORN) "A lot of people have turned cows out on dryland corn after it was released by crop insurance companies. In some cases, growers will follow with soybeans. Or, dairy and beef producers may plant grain sorghum after the corn is grazed down."

"A reminder, on June 26-27 the station is hosting the Southern Conservation Agricultural Systems Conference."

Bill Brooks, Mid-South Farmers Cooperative, Alamo, Tenn.:

(CORN) "We started spraying fungicides on corn last Wednesday and have been spraying every day since. Corn is tasseling, but there's a lot of variability due to dry weather. I looked at 3 fields today (Monday) that were 5 feet tall and tasseling, and they don't have much hope. Most corn in the bottoms is holding up good, and some irrigated corn looks quite promising. (SOY) Soybeans are still being planted. We have some good looking stands where beans were planted behind rain. A little replanting has been necessary where there was just enough moisture to rot seed. We did the first Roundup applications 2 weeks ago and added Orthene for thrips in several cases where thrips were about to carry the plants off. That's a first for me."

Grady Coburn, Consultant, Pest Management Enterprises, Cheneyville, La.: "We've been pretty fortunate in terms of rain. Some areas have actually received too much. One location has gotten 5.5 inches since last Friday, and most everybody received 1.5 to 3 inches. (SOY) We have initiated fungicide applications on 85% to 90% of our MG IVs. We're going with a strobilurin and triazole tank mix because we believe Asian soybean rust spores are in the area, based on prevailing winds and moisture conditions lately. That's taking care of other diseases, too. (CORN) Corn is well past the roasting ear stage, and yield potential looks super. Quite a bit of fungicide went out at tassel and early silk."

Dewey Lee, Georgia Extension Grain Specialist: (CORN) "Things have greened up in a good many areas, and we've been getting widely scattered thunderstorms. Some areas have received several inches of rain, in fact. Parts of the state continue to be dry, although they are at least getting rain in spots now. Dryland corn that survived has lost some yield potential, but it's responding to moisture where it has rained. Spider mites in corn are more widely scattered now. Growers have chosen in some cases to treat, although results really weren't successful. These showers, plus the humidity, may minimize some of the pressure now. But corn that suffered early, heavy infestations will lose some yield."

Merritt Holman, Arkansas Crop Technologies, Lonoke,

(Continued)

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Ark.: (CORN) “People have been irrigating as much as they can. A lot of this corn was planted after the freeze and is just now tasseling. Probably 75% of our growers are using a fungicide. **(SOY)** Some people are trying to water beans. There aren’t many insect problems, just a few grasshoppers on edges and a stinkbug here and there.”

Ronnie Bibb, Jimmy Sanders Seed Co., Hollandale, Miss.: (CORN) “The main thing with corn has been keeping water on it. We’ve been running our corn borer moth traps to make sure we don’t get blindsided in non-Bt fields. They usually get hot in the last week of June and early July. **(SOY)** We added a pyrethroid to our automatic R3 fungicide, and it caught a bunch of stinkbugs just as they were moving into the field.”

Ron Heiniger, NCSU Cropping Specialist, Plymouth, N.C.: (CORN) “We’ve been kind of living hand to mouth with small, scattered showers, and it’s kept the crop just on the edge of critical. Hopefully, we’ll get a system that helps us catch up. Corn is holding up somewhat better in blackland areas, but some yield potential has been lost in sandier fields that missed showers. The entire crop needs rain. High pressure continues to hang close to the shore line, and that has pushed a lot of potential rain to the north.”

Phil Gurley, Gurley’s Agricultural Consulting Service, Kennett, Mo.: (CORN) “Most of our corn is tasseling and silking. We put out a fungicide with an insecticide and a little foliar fertilizer. We’re just waiting for the second generation of borers. Fortunately, all of our corn is irrigated. It’s been seriously dry, and people have been through a really stressful period trying to keep equipment working and everything watered.”

Ty Edwards, Edwards Ag Consulting, LLC, Water Valley, Miss.: “We had a pretty nice rain last Thursday, and it was much needed. It was a farm-saving rain in places, and some areas got 2.5 inches. **(CORN)** We’ve been putting fungicides on the later planted or replanted corn, mainly on irrigated fields where we think it will pay. Some dryland corn has little or no yield potential now. **(SOY)** We’ve got a few beans at R3, and we’re putting on a little fungicide with Dimilin. Stinkbugs are present in spots, and we’ve added a little pyrethroid to those applications.”

David Holshouser, Virginia Extension Soybean Specialist, Suffolk, Va.: (SOY) “We’re getting dry, especially in northeast Virginia. Our full-season soybeans are up and growing. The rain a couple of weeks ago was a lifesaver. We are seeing what looks like manganese deficiency, which we tend to find here when soil pH is up a little, either due to recent liming or over liming. It’s showing up a little earlier than normal. It can hurt yields if you let it go, but we can take care of it with a foliar application.”

Dan Bradshaw, Crop Aid Agri Consultants, El Campo, Texas: “Crops aren’t burning up, but a good, general rain would sure help make the corn crop. Some grain sorghum is starting to roll. **(CORN)** Insect pressure has been pretty light. Worms haven’t been terribly bad, and we haven’t seen our usual stinkbug influx. They’re building in grain sorghum, but corn is pretty much past them now. Several growers are talking about double-cropping corn behind corn, something we did a little in the early and mid 1980s. Growers planted a short season hybrid after the first crop and, between the first and second crops, could average 250 bu/acre if everything lined up okay.”

Brent Lassiter, ProAg Services, LLC, Newport, Ark.: (SOY) “We had some aphid problems just after burndown and included

a low rate of pyrethroid with our first herbicide applications. Otherwise, we haven’t seen many insects. We’ve hardly irrigated any beans. Some on beds were watered up. The rest haven’t been watered. They’re still really small, but several little rains have helped move them along.”

Dennis Delaney, Alabama Soybean Specialist: (SOY) “Some places got a fair amount of rain this week. At Auburn, it probably rained 1.25 to 1.5 inches, but other areas got maybe a quarter of an inch up to an inch. People are asking about planting late beans. In some cases, these are beans that would have been planted earlier behind wheat, but it was too dry. We’re also getting questions about planting beans behind failed corn. If atrazine was used, it’s probably still there, and beans won’t work. From Montgomery south, there’s still time to plant an MG VI or MG VII and make a fairly good crop if conditions are right. We’re recommending that growers narrow up row spacings if they can.”

Brian Ward, Mississippi Soybean Verification Program, Delta Coordinator: (SOY) “Rainfall varied quite a bit in the south Delta this week. Amounts were mostly lower near the Mississippi River. Some fields west of Hollandale got nothing. But other areas received 1.25 to 2 inches, and there are reports of places that got 6 inches or more. We’re starting fungicides on irrigated MG IVs. Bean leaf beetles and a few stinkbugs are picking up, especially around corn.”

John Woodruff, Interim Georgia Extension Soybean Specialist: (SOY) “A lot of planting progress has been made since we got rain from Barry on June 2 and from showers since then. Due to delays with the drought, we’re behind on planting. Soybeans will pick up a little acreage that would have gone into cotton or peanuts. But if that rain on June 2 had come a week later, a lot more acres probably would have been switched. The western part of the state has picked up scattered showers, but it didn’t benefit from Barry, and that’s where we’ll see more shift to soybeans. Soybean prices have rallied 40 to 50 cents a bushel in a month, and that’s given people an extra incentive to plant some beans.

“We’re planting late, and growers need to increase seeding rates by 15% to 20% and also narrow rows, if possible. We have another 10 to 14 days left in our recommended window. After that, we’re past the desirable time, even for planting late soybeans. Seed availability has turned into an issue. A seedsman said that everyone is running low on late maturing varieties. There hasn’t been a lot of seed increase in the MG VII and MG VIII varieties, and people may be tempted to plant an earlier variety if they can’t get anything adapted. At this point, the earlier varieties could take a big yield penalty. I would rather see growers plant something else entirely if they get much past July 1. The hay market is strong right now, and millet might be an option, either for grazing or baling.”

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