

# AGFAX: SOUTHERN GRAIN

Corn • Soybeans • Wheat • Grain Sorghum

## MARCH 10, 2008

Here is this week's **AgFax: Southern Grain**.

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## OVERVIEW

**Rain, and lots of it.** Much of the region has received at least one round of rain over the last week. That was followed by colder weather, bringing ice and snow to parts of the Mid-

west of wheat is now, we can't wait indefinitely to apply nitrogen fertilizer without suffering yield loss."

**Dewey Lee, Georgia Extension Grain Specialist:**

"With the fronts that have moved through, we are extremely wet. It's reached the point that some de-nitrification is occurring. We're seeing low levels of disease pressure. The crop continues to look good. It is 7 to 10 days ahead of average development, so that is a little concerning with the cold front that's moving into the state."

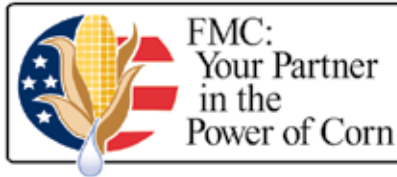
**Brent Griffin, Agronomist, Cache River Valley**

**Seed, LLC, Cash, Ark.:** "We have intermittent snow right now (Friday afternoon). Nothing is sticking on the road, but

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south. The rain is a welcomed development in areas where drought has lingered, but the soggy conditions continue to delay fertilizer applications and late herbicide treatments.

**Hessian Fly.** A Hessian fly advisory was issued in **North Carolina** on Friday. Extension personnel are not calling for treatments yet. See more details below. The full advisory is posted under the North Carolina heading at [agfax.com](http://agfax.com) and will be available until Friday, March 14.

## CROP REPORTS

**Erick Larson, Mississippi Extension Grain Specialist:** "The crop mostly varies from early stem elongation in the southern part of the state to late tillering in the northern counties. We continue to receive rainfall about twice a week, or at least it seems that way. Fields are wet, and there has been little or no opportunity to make ground applications of fertilizer or herbicides. That's meant a lot of business for aerial applicators, but they're probably over-extended in trying to make applications as soon as farmers want. These delays due to the weather or application capacity are worrisome from the standpoint of nitrogen needs. At the growth stage where a lot

it is starting to build up in the fields a little. We've finished all of our first applications of nitrogen, and a few second applications went out over the last weekend when it warmed up. A lot of wheat has finished tillering, and we have good joint movement. No disease is evident right now, but you never know. In comparison to last year, we are three weeks behind in crop development, which puts us at about a normal point. With the exception of wet holes or low spots with standing water, we're in about as good a shape as we can be. There has been a lot of wind, and that's delayed some burndown applications ahead of rice, corn, grain sorghum and even some early-planted soybeans. A majority of folks are going after glyphosate-resistant marestail."

**David Lanclos, Louisiana Soybean and Feed Grain Specialist:** "Corn hasn't been planted to any extent. A couple of producers did start. Anyone who did plant prior to the last cold snap probably will be okay, but I don't think anybody is getting in a big rush right now. Several producers told me this week that they should get started, but everyone has been looking at predictions for cold conditions and ice and/or snow in  
(Continued)

our northern parishes. This looks like the last major cold snap for 7 to 10 days, with temperatures moderating next week. Today is March 7 (Friday), and I've cautioned growers to let this system move through. Based on the last forecast I saw, they maybe can start planting next Wednesday or Thursday after soil temperatures have warmed up. Until then, the best thing to do with seed is keep them in the bag."

**Chris Main, Tennessee Extension Wheat Specialist:** "We're not much further along than we were a week ago. Everyone is trying to catch breaks in the weather to apply topdress nitrogen and still hoping to clean up a few weeds here and there. We're still finding a few aphids but no populations that justify treatments. What we mainly need is a good week of dry weather to wrap up this immediate application work. The forecasts call for pretty cold conditions over the next couple of nights, with the chance for snow. The snow would actually help insulate the crop. I don't think anything is far enough along to really be affected by the temperatures in the forecast right now. It appears that the lowest it might get is into the low 20s. But you never know how the crop would be affected if, instead, it got way down in the teens."

**Edward Twidwell, Louisiana Extension Wheat Specialist:** "Our wheat is still in a holding pattern due to all the rain and cooler conditions. Our crop, overall, still looks good. Most of it has a nice green color, and there aren't a whole lot of weeds in there. In terms of the weather forecast, there's not really anything that concerns me. They're saying that some snow and/or freezing rain fell in Shreveport this morning (Friday), but the crop generally isn't far enough along for there to be a concern.

"I'm getting questions about leaf rust. We're kind of concerned about that because some growers planted varieties that aren't really adapted for our area or that have never been in any of our evaluations. As wet as it's been, leaf rust could be a factor. It's probably a little too early to look at spraying, particularly with this cold spell coming, but growers need to be aware of the potential for leaf rust to develop in non-recommended varieties. In the last few years, we've had some stripe rust problems, but I don't think much of it is out there right now."

**Lewis Wells, Agro Distribution, Gillett, Ark.:** "In our area, possibly 40% of the wheat has not had its first shot of fertilizer. The weather hasn't cooperated for that first nitrogen application. Some fields that received the application are due for the second shot now. We're hearing reports of a little rust south of us, but it's a rare case when we would have to be concerned about that here at this point in the year. Overall, the wheat crop really looks good. In the 25 or so years that wheat has been established in this area, we've pretty much always

had good crops, with 2007 being the exception. It's snowing pretty heavily today (Friday). Our wheat is at about normal in terms of growth for the first week of March."

**Jay Chapin, South Carolina Extension Specialist:** "We're in pretty good shape in terms of moisture. We're getting some rain today (Friday), which makes the third front that's moved through here in the last 10 days. The ponds and swamps are pretty full, which is really good to see. We've got some wheat – especially some of the later-planted fields – where nitrogen did not go on in time. It should have been applied around February 10 to 15. We're seeing some cereal leaf beetles laying eggs right now, but we're holding our fire. We like to put off treatments as late as we can. They won't do anything right now. In another 3 weeks it will be time to consider putting out a fungicide, and we try to make that application a 'two-fer,' when possible."

## HESSIAN FLY UPDATE

Extension personnel in **North Carolina** continue monitoring Hessian fly populations, but no calls for treatment have been made. An advisory was distributed Friday morning by Randy Weisz, North Carolina Extension Wheat Specialist, and John Van Duyn, Extension Entomologist.

You can find the full advisory under the North Carolina heading at [agfax.com](http://agfax.com).

Weisz said that he looked at fields in Rowan County on Thursday (March 6). "Found lots of pupa on susceptible, early planted varieties," he reported. "None showed signs of being ready to hatch."

Van Duyn said that as of Friday, "I have only one report of suspected Hessian fly emergence but several reports of no emergence."

He also said that several reports of HF eggs turned out to be the eggs of other species.

"Given that the prediction for the next several days calls for lows in the 40s and highs in low 50s to mid-60s, I believe that we will not see much emergence before next week," Van Duyn said. "However, if temperatures move into the 70s and 80s, I suspect that fly emergence will be soon."

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