



# Worth County Weekly Crop Report

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## Crop Report for Week of August 14, 2008

### **Delayed Corn Harvest, Foliar Burn on Peanuts, and other Miscellany**

I think I heard crickets chirping a few times this week. And I didn't hear them at home. They were in my office, chirping because the telephone wasn't ringing quite as often as it has over the past three or four months. Of course I am not complaining. I think it signals that everything is beginning to fall into place and we can look forward to preparing things for harvest.

### **Corn Situation:**

The most notable thing to happen this week is rainfall. Finally we have received rain, and high temperatures have dropped off into the low 90's. Much of the county's crop is at the point where harvest should begin whenever moisture levels reach the right number for the grower. Whatever that "magic" number is depends on the grower. Harvest can begin when moisture is in the mid-twenties. Most are opting to wait until it drops into the high teens to save drying costs. That approach works well most times. It can be, and already is, a MAJOR problem if the soil is saturated, then a thunderstorm with high winds moves in. Some fields in Northern Worth County are already leaning very badly, and I am afraid another wind storm will put it onto the ground. Lets all pray that doesn't come to pass.

Another threat to corn this year is Aflatoxin. Aflatoxin is an acronym used to describe the presence of the fungus *Aspergillus flavus*. Growth of *A. flavus* on corn kernels is VERY conducive in weather like we are experiencing. The optimum environment for Aflatoxin is hot, humid weather and moisture from 13-20%. Take these few steps to minimize Aflatoxin in field corn in 2008.

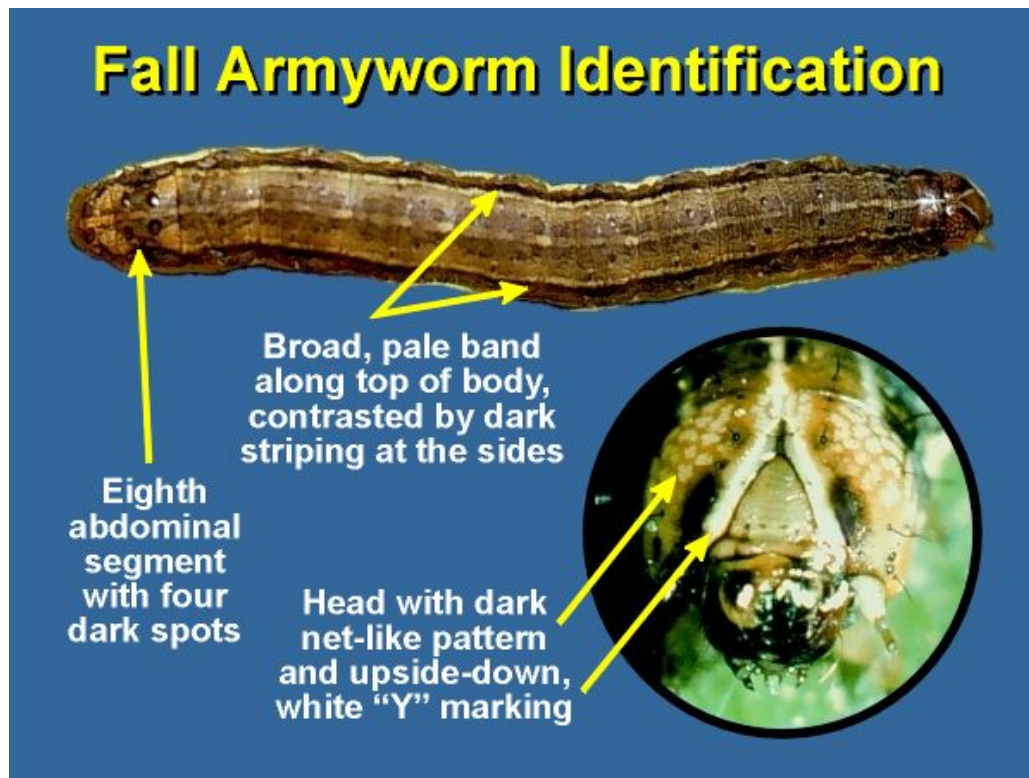
1. Harvest when moisture is between 20%-25%
2. Dry corn to 12%-13% within a few hours of harvest
3. Minimize cracked grain kernels
  - blow undeveloped and cracked kernels out the backs of combines
  - set the combine to *NOT* crack good kernels
4. Don't harvest ears in contact with the ground
5. Maintain proper moisture in on-farm storage

### **Peanut Situation:**

Why is foliage burn from fungicides such an issue this season? Could it be a change in formulations? Is it weather? Is it adjuvants? Is it from using <15 GPA? Everybody is perplexed over the issue. There are a few guesses floating around out there, but nobody has the answer. I have seen several fields, and I have talked to other county agents from elsewhere seeing the same things. As of today I do not have an answer. I have delivered several samples to the UGA Plant Pathology Disease Clinic in Tifton for diagnosis. Maybe we will have more of an answer by early next week. In the meantime, don't cuss out your chemical salesman. He didn't do it. Don't blame the county agent. He can't predict these things. My gut instinct is to believe the burn goes back to weather conditions coupled with less than 15 GPA fungicide carrier volumes. Some products are known to burn sporadically every year. All you can do is take what you get when using those products. They are excellent fungicides, but burn happens to be a side effect of those chemicals. I highly recommend setting up your sprayer to deliver at least 20 GPA. Taking the carrier volume down to levels used with systemic herbicides is a bad decision for several reasons.

First, it concentrates the chemical to the point where it is toxic to the plant when it tries to absorb such a high concentration. Too much of a good thing burns. Second, systemic fungicides are NOT like systemic herbicides. Fungicides tend to move outward from the point where the spray droplet hits the leaf. They don't move downward very well. If they did, then getting white mold control with systemic fungicides would be

very easy. As it is, it ain't, if you know what I mean☺ On the other hand, systemic herbicides generally move up and down within the plant. That is why an airplane can apply glyphosate at 4 GPA carrier volumes and get good results, and the same plane with the same setup will cause you major problems with peanut diseases if spraying fungicides on peanuts. About the only good you do when using less than 15 GPA is not overworking your man pulling the water wagon. Everything else, including your bank account, suffers.



Source: <http://entomology.unl.edu/charts/fawchart.shtml>

#### Miscellaneous Issues:

Grain sorghum is still being eaten up by Fall Armyworms/Corn Earworms. Control has been sporadic and short-lived so far this season, so keep an eye on it. I have also noticed several mature fields where midge control was less than acceptable, even after being sprayed. The best midge control was obtained in fields that were sprayed two times for midge. It was probably a timing issue, but two shots did work better than one this season. Back on the FAW control issue, I spoke with Dr. Dave Buntin, UGA Extension Grain Entomologist, on the issue of poor results from our FAW sprays. One of the things he said was to take the carrier volume up to 25 GPA with a hot rate of pyrethroid. Killing worms in the whorl is difficult. The best you can do is to get the GPA high enough, and the sprayer pressure high enough, and pray the worms come up high enough on the whorl to make contact with the insecticide. I can elaborate on other options that may work. Just give me a call and we can talk about them.

Cotton is moving along pretty well this week. Older dryland fields are cutting out early in a few places. It tends to be in weaker soil, and the coloration of leaves tells me that potash has run out in those places. Stink bug numbers seem to be leveling off if not dropping. Worm pressure is mostly low, although FAW has been seen in a few scattered fields. Scout the lower canopy for them. One thing to look for is etching inside the boll bracts on the lower limbs. Fall Armyworm has the distinctive inverted (upside down) "Y" on his face. Look one in the eye and you will see what I am talking about.

Peanut maturity clinics will begin Monday, September 1, 2008. Call to run samples earlier. I know some folks with AT 215 peanuts may already need to look at them. We will be glad to take a look at them any time. Look for a schedule to appear in the next printed newsletter coming out next week.

Please feel free to call us any time at (229)776-8216 with questions. Email [uge4321@uga.edu](mailto:uge4321@uga.edu) to make additions or changes to the email list.