

Halstad Scouting Report 8/6/10

Wheat

Harvest is progressing full steam ahead. Yields have been good again this year with better protein compared to last year. We had a few growers try 28% on wheat at post flowering, with mixed results.

Corn

We have been scouting for corn borer and have seen nothing to be concerned about at this time. Growing conditions have been great with us being 250GDUs ahead of last year and 41GDUs ahead of the five year average.

Soybeans

Aphids remain in check with only fields being sprayed are in heavily wooded conditions. This last week has brought on the detection of spider mites, they are being found in many locations but at low levels, except the occasional hot spot. We will continue to monitor for both of these pests until the pods have filled.

Beets

Cercospera spraying has moved into the 2nd application stage, for the first fields done, remember to plan for your pre-haul schedule. Pre-harvest intervals need to be considered with each application.

We continue to have adequate moisture this year for what looks to be a good to excellent crop. Remember to take a little extra time during this busy season and stay safe.

Hillsboro Scouting Report 8/6/10

Soybeans

The soybeans are fast approaching the R5 stage, which are plants that have pods from the bottom of the plant up to the 4th node from the top. Aphid numbers are still staying low with the exception of a few fields having slightly higher numbers. There has been fields that have spider mites showing up in them. Spider mites will cause speckling on the top of the leaf showing up first on the lower leaves of the plant.

Soil Testing

We have received several calls about "Soil Testing Behind the Combine" as small grain harvest gets started in many areas. Research from NDSU has shown that the soil nitrate level changes very little following small grain harvest and no sampling date adjustment should be made for early sampling. AGVISE

has done many sampling date demonstration projects as well, and the soil nitrate level change is less than 5-10 lb/a from August through October, if the volunteer grain is controlled.

In eastern areas, many grain farmers have a compulsion to till grain fields as soon as they are harvested. It is important to soil test right after the combine, when the soil profile is undisturbed so you get the best quality soil sample for testing N, P, K, %OM and micronutrients. Another reason to test right after the combine is so you will know what the soil nitrate level is before volunteer grain has a chance to grow and "hide" nitrogen that will be available for next years crop.