



Farm Views

Soybeans American Style

Using Innovation & Experience to
Increase Profitability

Soybeans American Style is the theme for the fourth annual Soybean Management Field Days. Four field days are scheduled across the state this year. The Southeast Nebraska field day will be held Aug. 16 at the David Antholz Farm, Burr - located 3 miles west of the Highway 50 and Burr Spur intersection, south of Syracuse.

The event features field stops with demonstration plots, plus lunch and time for questions. This year's field stops will focus on managing soil water and irrigation, understanding insect and disease interactions, getting the upper hand in weed control and finding stronger links to profitability.

Soybean Management Field Days is sponsored by the Nebraska Soybean Board in cooperation with the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension. Thus, the information and demonstrations are unbiased and research-based. Presenters include University of Nebraska specialists, educators and industry consultants.

There is no charge for admission or lunch. Continuing Education credits are available for Certified Crop Advisors. The event runs from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. with registration at the door. For more information call 1-800-852-BEAN, 1-800-529-8030 or visit <http://ardc.unl.edu/soydays.htm> (TD)

Pesticide Container Recycling

The Nebraska Pesticide Container Recycling program, coordinated by UNL Cooperative Extension, provides a recycling opportunity for plastic from one and 2-1/2 gallon containers. Crop oil and adjuvant containers may also be recycled.

There will be a pesticide container recycling collection at the Farmers Cooperative in Waverly on Friday, July 19, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Lancaster County Extension office also accepts containers during business hours at 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln until Oct. 31. Please call before drop-off.

All liquid pesticide containers require proper rinsing (triple rinsing or pressure rinsing). Caps and plastic labels or multilayered paper labels must be removed.

This plastic is kept separate from regular recycling channels and only goes into environmentally safe uses such as pesticide shipping pallets, agricultural drain tile, parking lot tire bumpers, rail road ties, plastic lumber, etc.

For more information about the pesticide container recycling program, call Tom Dorn at 441-7180 or visit online at <http://pested.unl.edu/pestrecy.htm>.

Plant Turnips for Fall Grazing

Are you still searching for a high-quality pasture for late-fall and early-winter grazing for beef cows? Turnips provide excellent grazing beginning in October and often lasting into the new year. Also, turnips are cheap to plant since seed can cost less than five dollars per acre. And now is the time to plant turnips for fall grazing.

Seedbed preparation and planting can be done several ways. Some turnip growers work soil like a fully prepared alfalfa seedbed. Others heavily disk their ground, but leave it fairly rough. A few growers spray Roundup or Gramoxone on wheat stubble to kill weeds and then plant no-till. And still others actually use a moldboard plow and rely on the very rough surface it creates as their seed bed.

Whatever method you choose, good early weed control

is essential. Turnips do poorly if weeds get ahead of them, but once turnips get started they compete very well. Since no herbicides are labeled for turnips, weeds must be controlled either by tillage or by using contact herbicides like Roundup or Gramoxone before planting. Then plant quickly to get the turnips off and running.

Plant only one to three pounds of turnip seed per acre. Turnip seed is very small, so barely cover it. If you drill your seed, just scratch the surface with your openers. Broadcasting works well for many growers, especially onto rough seedbeds where rainfall washes soil onto the seeds for soil coverage.

Then wait. With a few timely rains you will have excellent green feed for October, November, and December. (TD)

Source: Bruce Anderson

Preparing Bins, Equipment for Harvest

An often quoted truism is, "Nothing can be done to improve the quality of grain in storage. The best that can be done is maintain the quality one started with." Precautions taken before grain is put into the bin can pay dividends later by helping to assure quality is maintained. Don't wait until the middle of harvest to discover a bin foundation is severely cracked or find even later insects from grain left in the combine last fall have become a problem in a bin of new grain. The following discussion can serve as a check list as you "tune up" your equipment and facilities prior to harvest.

Harvesting Equipment

Remove all traces of old grain from combines, truck beds, grain carts, augers and any other equipment used for harvesting, transporting and handling grain. Even small amounts of moldy or insect-infested grain left in equipment can contaminate a bin of new grain.

Site

Check the bin site. Spilled grain harbors insects and draws mice and rats. Clean up and dispose of any spilled grain at least four weeks prior to harvest. If rats have tunneled under foundations, use fumigants, baits or traps to reduce or eliminate them. Tall weeds can harbor insects and provide cover for rodents. Mow the site to remove tall grass and weeds to reduce the potential for insect or rodent infestation. If necessary, re-grade the site so water readily drains away from bin foundations. One cannot always wait for the soil to dry before loading or unloading grain from bin sites. Make certain travel lanes have adequate rock or gravel to bear the weight of heavy trucks and grain carts.

Electrical

A bin of 19 percent moisture corn with a starting temperature of 75° F can lose a full market grade in about five days, if the aeration system shuts down allowing the grain to heat and deteriorate. Electrical system maintenance before harvest can prevent costly downtime.

Wiring for fans and other electrical components should be inspected for corrosion and cracked, frayed, or broken insulation. Exposed wiring should be run through waterproof, dust-tight conduit. Avoid kinking the conduit and make sure all connections are secure.

Mice love to nest in control boxes where they are protected from predators. They often strip insulation from wires for nest material and their urine causes corrosion on relays and other components. If rodent damage is found, clean and repair or replace damaged wiring, relays, and other components. Then seal over knock-outs and other openings that allowed rodent entry.



PHOTO: UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Aeration Systems

Check fans, heaters, transitions and ducts for corrosion and damage. Remove any accumulated dust and dirt that will reduce the operating efficiency. Be sure all connections are tight to prevent air leaks that will reduce operating efficiency.

Bins

Inspect bins and foundations for structural problems. Repair as needed. Check the bin roof, including roof vents and access hatch, inside and out, for leaks, loose or sheared bolts, corrosion, etc. Be sure the access ladder is complete and securely fastened to the bin. Repair or replace any deteriorated components.

Ensure the bins are clean. Remove any old grain with brooms and shop vacuums. Never put new grain on top of old unless the carry-over grain has been fumigated. Don't forget to clean bins not being used for storage this year as these can be a source of insects that will migrate to other bins.

Treating Empty Bins

If long-term storage (over 10 months) is anticipated, consider treating the cleaned, empty bin with insecticides at least two weeks before adding any grain. Apply the spray to the point of runoff to as many interior surfaces as possible, especially joints, seams, cracks, ledges, and corners. Also spray outside the bin at the foundation and near doors, vents, ducts, and fans.

Residual empty-bin treatments for wheat and feed grains include: Malathion, cyfluthrin (Tempo), chlorpyrifos-methyl (Reldan), pyrethrins (many brand names), permethrin (Hard Hitter), piperonyl butoxide mixed with pyrethrins (many brand names and several different concentrations of active ingredient), silicon dioxide (diatomaceous earth under many brand names), silica gel (several brand names), *Bacillus thuringiensis* (BT) subsp. *kurstaki* (many brands).

The only residual-action product registered for empty-bin treatment for soybeans is silicon dioxide.

Non-residual contact products for empty bin treatment include: sodium hypochlorite (Chlorox Bleach), piperonyl butoxide plus pyrethrins (Pyrenone Crop Spray) and malathion (Fyfanon).

Fumigation of Empty Bins

If a bin was infested with insects during the past year and if it has a perforated drying floor, consider fumigating the empty bin if you anticipate carrying new grain into the warmer spring or summer months. It is generally impossible to thoroughly clean under perforated drying floors; however, much of the debris can be removed if the drying fan is removed and an extension pipe and grain vacuum are used. After removing as much grain and grain dust as possible, the bin can then be fumigated. Presently in Nebraska, aluminum phosphide, magnesium phosphide, methyl bromide and chloropicrin are registered for empty bin fumigation.

Note: Not all products can be used with all types of grain, always check product labels for specific sites and for special handling restrictions. Caution! Fumigants are dangerous restricted-use pesticides and may require gas monitoring devices and respirator protection for the applicator. It is highly recommended fumigation be done by a commercial pesticide applicator that has been certified in safe fumigant handling and application techniques.

Before applying any pesticide, read and follow product label instructions for handling, dilution, mixing and application directions.

Note: Many active ingredients mentioned above are sold by several companies under many different brand names. Not all products with the same active ingredient(s) are labeled for all sites. Be certain the intended site is listed on the label of the product you are considering before you buy and use it.

Products mentioned in this publication were registered for use in Nebraska at the time of publication (June, 2002). To check the current registration status of a pesticide, access the on-line Nebraska Department of Agriculture pesticide database at: <http://www.kellysolutions.com/ne/pesticideindex.htm>. This database can be searched by several criteria, e.g., application site, pest, active ingredient, brand name, etc. (TD)

Disclaimer: Mention of brand names in this publication is for clarity only and not intended as an endorsement of one product over other, similar products.