

Crop Observation

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have been 80, 35 pounds of extra nitrogen had been applied each year.

Another area for potential savings is to credit fall nitrogen applications. For example, 130 pounds of nitrogen would be required for a yield potential of 100 bushels. If 30 pounds of nitrogen had been applied in the fall, only 100 additional pounds should be applied in the spring. If the yield potential would have been 90 or 80 in the same scenario, the spring nitrogen rate should be 80 and 60 pounds, respectively. Credits are not given for previous crops. A legume, such as soybeans, will eventually provide available nitrogen to the soil but often too late for the wheat crop. The above rates are based on mineral soils, which have both one-five percent organic matter and adequate drainage. Nitrogen rates would need to be reduced on soils with high or-

ganic matter to decrease the risk of lodging.

Besides the rate of nitrogen, application time is also important. In most years, nitrogen may be applied between early March and early April. A split spring application program may be a benefit in poorly drained fields that are prone to nitrogen loss. For these programs, it is important that the first application occurs soon after initial green-up and the second application at initial jointing (Feekes Growth Stage 6). The time of application is not as critical in a single topdress (providing some nitrogen was applied in the fall), but applications should be made after initial green-up and before the second visible node on the stem.

Most sources of nitrogen are satisfactory for wheat, but price and availability may limit some products this year. Urea and 28 percent solution (urea-ammonium nitrate) are often the most

common. Urea has the least potential to cause damage to the crop. Damage is generally insignificant from broadcast applications of 28 percent solution applied early, but the potential for damage increases as the crop matures. Dribble band applications will minimize damage from 28 percent solutions. Urea-ammonium nitrate solutions will have some nitrogen available immediately at application time; urea will have a short lag as it converts to ammonium and nitrate forms of nitrogen. Generally, 28 percent solutions have the greatest potential for nitrogen losses since part of it is immediately in the nitrate form. Urea may have volatilization losses if temperatures are exceedingly warm.

In summary, except where water has been standing, the wheat crop looks well at this time and should have the potential for optimal yields. Carefully, consider reducing nitrogen rates. Leaving out sulfur and unproven amendments would be a better man-



CORN TALK NEWS

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agement decision than making large reductions in nitrogen rates (note, low CEC sands may need sulfur).

For more detailed information, please refer to the Extension bulletin E-2567, Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations for Corn, Soy-

beans, Wheat and Alfalfa.

Gray Leaf Spot On Corn And Labeled Fungicides (Lipps)

Gray leaf spot (GLS) is a potential threat to corn production each year in Ohio. Some areas of the state are

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CORN BITS

Ethanol Task Force Seeks To Increase Demand, Awareness For Ethanol

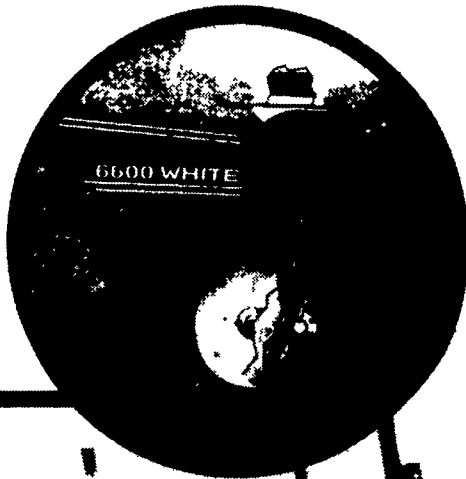
The NCGA Ethanol Task Force met Feb. 1-2 in St. Louis. Key among the task force's accomplishments was discussion and planning of NCGA principles for ethanol legislation in the 107th Congress.

The group also reviewed the national marketing plan, which is in the development stage; reviewed ethanol policy comments received at the recent

Policy and Priority Conference in St. Louis; heard a brief updated Valentine Radford's progress in the marketing plan discovery process; discussed an ethanol industry management committee structure; discussed NCGA's ethanol objectives and mission in regard to preparing a business plan; and determined direction/key points for the task force's meeting and presentation at Commodity Classic.

Task force members are Lucy Norton, Iowa; Ron Litterer, Iowa; Duane Adams, Minnesota; Ken McCauley, Kansas; Rod Weinzierl, Illinois; Chairman Boyd Smith, Nebraska; Garry Niemeyer, Illinois; NCGA President Lee Klein, Nebraska; NCGA Chairman Lynn Jensen, South Dakota; NCGA Staff Lead Mike Rohan; Audrey Swanson, Minnesota; Don Hutchens, Nebraska; Lisa Richardson, South Dakota; and Ryland Utlaug, Missouri.

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