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Group**

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**Ozark Fall FarmFest
E-Plex Center Hall
Springfield, MO
October 7-9**

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Volume 16, Issue 3

September 2016

Getting Ready for Harvest

I have just gotten back from a trip through parts of south-western and west central Missouri where the corn harvest was just getting started. This has given me a sense of urgency to get ready for harvest myself.

The early corn yields that have been reported are impressive, even better than I first expected. A producer west of Clinton had his combine monitor showing a 254 bu. yield with 17% moisture in some areas of his field. This is the absolute highest that I have heard at this time. Many of our producers in south central Missouri, who had chopped corn for silage, had appraisals between 160-180 bushels. I think these numbers will be closer to the final yield this year for our area as a whole. The question now is; what are we going to do with all this corn?

As you travel throughout the Midwest you can still see piles of corn left from last year's big crop. This year's crop will be almost as big. As harvest gets started I expect to see elevators charging a larger than normal negative basis for corn. This will encourage producers to store

most or all of their production in on-farm storage.

Farm storage is good to have in high yielding years, however, it also requires additional management.

The first order of business, if you are going to use on-farm storage, is to call your agent and have an adjuster measure any leftover grain PRIOR to mixing this year's crop with it. This is extremely important in years when there may be possible revenue losses due to a fall in price from the spring.

Most of us spend several



days getting combines and trucks ready for the upcoming harvest season but many of us neglect our grain storage facilities. These structures need as much or more

attention than any other component in our system. Sanitation and the elimination of insects are very critical prior to harvest. Bins should be emptied, cleaned if possible, and then sprayed with an insecticide that will kill all pests that can damage grain. For years, I used malathion to sanitize bins prior to harvest. This product did a good job on granary weevil but did not control several of the other pests that can do considerable damage to my grain. It's always a battle to keep insects under control and many times I lost bushels to insect damage and would get docked for grain that was infested.

Today, I handle my grain storage differently to avoid these losses. I try to empty all the bins and clean them as good as possible paying close attention around drying floors and openings. On the outside of the bins, I control all weeds and do my best to get rid of any spilled grain that could entice insects. I spray Cyntenal insecticide around the base of all the bins, around the doorways, and drying fans. Inside the bin I coat the walls, drying floors, stirators, and

SPRING PRICES

Corn - \$3.86
Soybeans - \$8.95
Grain Sorghum - \$3.72

HARVEST PRICES

(Prices set November 1)

Corn - TBD*
Soybeans - TBD**
Grain Sorghum - TBD@

*Dec16 CORN is averaged daily from Oct 1 thru Oct 31

**Nov16 SBEAN is averaged daily from Oct 1 thru Oct 31

@Based on ending Corn price



Getting Ready for Harvest (continued from page 1)

spreaders with this same product. Cyntenal has proven to be a superior insecticide on my farm as it eliminates all of the insects that generally cause damage in my operation. What it doesn't have is any residual effect. Think of this treatment as you would a burn down herbicide. It kills everything that is living but does nothing to the eggs that will hatch and become

the next generation of insects.

After this first application, I come back the next day and spray the structure with an IGR like Diacon. Diacon works the same way fly control mineral works in cattle, breaking the life cycle of insects by never allowing them to mature to an adult and reproduce. I have found these types of products to work very well. In the past,

I have held wheat for 24 months in a bin without retreating and without any insect damage when I pulled the grain out.

This method of sanitation and treatment of my on-farm storage facilities has become the standard for my operation.

Scouting the Fields

While this growing season has seen most of our producer's fields getting some timely rains it has not been without its challenges. Back in the early summer most of us were afflicted with a Japanese leaf beetle infestation in our corn and soybean fields. A lot of you sprayed to try and control the damage. Most fields escaped without damage. However, some showed considerable damage along the edges of the field and patches within the field.

The last week of August, we found several pests starting to cause damage in the soybean fields. We found army worms, green clover worms, and pod worms. This outbreak was more severe than the Japanese leaf beetle infestation. To fight the outbreak we saw a lot of sprayers out in the fields and planes spraying over fields the last cou-

ple of weeks minimize the damage.

The photo below shows the army worm on the right and the adult green clover worm on the left. Both of these pests were doing considerable damage to the

leaves of the soybeans during the critical flowering and pod filling periods.

Pod worms were also taking a toll on some fields in the area. Although this was more isolated, the fields that were affected did show



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Scouting the Fields (continued from page 2)

considerable damage to the pods of the soybean plants.

Soybeans and corn alike are both showing signs of several different diseases. The abnormally moist and warm conditions that we have had this summer have made ideal conditions for these diseases to manifest themselves.

A crop consultant pointed out a virus to us that we had not identified before. Soybean vein necrosis virus. This virus kills portions of the leaves and in more severe cases can defoliate a good portion of the plant in susceptible varieties. This virus is spread by insects eating on an infected plant then moving to another plant and infecting that plant. Some think that the Japanese leaf beetle is the main culprit but it is actually an insect called a thrip.

Thrips usually feed on the underside of the soybean leaf. They use their mouth

to scrape open the plant cells and feed on the sap that oozes out. Generally these pests do not cause major economic damage but they have been linked to the spreading of viral diseases.

While the corn this year has faired very well, the extra moisture has caused some increase in disease pressure just like we've seen in the soybeans. Gray Leaf Spot was identified early in the area around the time of tasseling. Some fields were sprayed to control this disease but many with less severe infections were left untreated.

Anthraxnose has been seen in the area with varying degrees of severity. Its leaf symptoms are very similar to Gray Leaf Spot but the result of the disease is diminished stalk quality. It will be important, as we wait for corn to dry down, to watch for stalk quality issues.



Pod Worm damage



Vein necrosis virus damage



Gray Leaf Spot



Anthraxnose stalk rot



Thrips

Broadcast Soybean Field Test

Harvest FYI

Any leftover 2015 production in on-farm storage? - Call the office before adding new production



Any potential revenue losses must be reported within 45 days after harvest of the crop or the release of Fall prices



If you will not finish harvest before December 10 please call the office



Failure to do any of the preceding could jeopardize any potential loss claims

Broadcasting soybeans is not a new practice. Producers several years ago broadcast soybeans with varied degrees of success. Recently this practice has all but been abandoned due to the high cost of seed and issues relating to seed to soil contact to generate an adequate stand.

With the planting conditions of the last couple of years, we have gotten a number of producers who were asking about the feasibility of planting soybeans by a broadcast method. Currently, planting by this method is an uninsurable method according to RMA's crop insurance rules. However, we can make a request by written agreement, prior to planting, to RMA asking that this method be approved as insurable. RMA can either reject or accept with certain conditions, this offer for the insured.

Because of the number of inquiries that we receive each year, we decided to plant a field of broadcast soybeans on our operation this past spring to determine if in fact it is a feasible way to plant. A written agreement for insurability was submitted and approved by the RMA with the condition that the stand produced would have the potential to produce at least 90% of our APH.

Our goal was to plant this crop on 30 acres using the same methods that most producers would be using. We want to evaluate the results to see if this is, in fact, a viable practice that our producers could use.

Honestly, when we started this test we only had marginal hopes that it would be successful. Therefore, we chose the least productive field in our operation to run this test on.

The Test

We had one tote of Merschman-Miami 1349 soybeans left. It was just the right amount of seed to plant the amount of acres we had with the right seeding rate of 188,000 seeds per acre. The germination of the seed was listed at 90%.

We used a fertilizer buggy to spread the seed. The seed was not mixed with fertilizer. It was put straight into the buggy and was topped with inoculants. Ag-Coop of Otterville worked with us to get the gate settings and the weight of the soybeans correct prior to spreading.

The field we had chosen was planted to wheat in 2015 and then double cropped with soybeans. That fall, after harvest, the field was then planted to wheat as a cover crop. Oats were then inter-seeded into the wheat in early spring. In early May the cov-



Broadcast Soybean Field Test (continued from page 4)

er crop was harvested as forage. The bales were removed and the field was prepared for planting.

The majority of this field would be worked one time, seeded, then harrowed using a phoenix harrow to incorporate the seed. On the south end of the field we decided to test various ways of seed incorporation to see if there would be a difference in stand population. We continued to use the same seeding rate on all the parts of the field.

Anytime a broadcast method of planting is being used, an additional seeding rate is needed. There is considerable seed damage issues that will have to be overcome. We were expecting to have about 20% of the seeds damaged by the spreader. We were also expecting to have another 25% of the seeds not covered by soil.

With all these deductions we expected to lose 55% of the seed and only get about 85,000 plants per acre. If this amount of population was achieved we knew that we could still raise a full crop as the plants would compensate for the reduced stand.

We learned that there was a lot of preparation that was needed to get successful results. Within the first few feet we found out that broadcasting soybeans was very different than spreading fertilizer.

Using PTO speed on the tractor when we started broadcasting caused the fans to break an excessive amount of seed. We were getting about 50 feet of coverage width but at the expense of 25% broken and split seed. We immediately slowed the RPM's of the tractor to 1200 which is about 60% of what we were running. This nearly stopped the seed damage but the spread width decreased as well. Adjustments were made for the spread width and population.



Initial Plant Date - May 27, 2016

Broadcast Soybean Field Test (continued from page 5)

15-Jun-2016 1522 UTC | 38.685940, -92.690475
19101 Oakland Church Rd, Clarksburg, MO 65025, USA



We used the hula hoop method to calculate our seed population and re-adjusted the gate setting until we were counting a population of 170-180 thousand seeds per acre. When the field was completed we were amazed that our seed came out nearly perfect. We might have had a bushel of seed left on the buggy, at the most, when we finished the field thus bringing our population to 188,000 seeds per acre.

After plant emergence we again used the hula hoop method to estimate our plant population. This helped us determine if it would be enough to exceed the conditions set by the written agreement offer from RMA.

Initial Observations

For the majority of the field the seeding depth was inconsistent and lead to uneven emergence. Some seeds could be found at 1.5" deep while others were near the top of the ground. When looking at the results after planting, I had concerns whether this would work or not. However, within a few days the shallower beans were up and the deeper ones were germinating well.

Plot 1

The soybeans were spread without prior tillage on top of the cover crop stubble. The beans were then incorporated into the ground using one pass with a field

23-Jun-2016 1428 UTC | 38.686054, -92.687691
19101 Oakland Church Rd, Clarksburg, MO 65025, USA



Broadcast Soybean Field Test (continued from page 6)

cultivator running at 2" deep. This was means of incorporation seemed to be the best. By cultivating the beans in we seemed to get a more uniform seed depth and emergence seemed to be more even.

Plot 2

In this test the ground was worked with multiple passes with the field cultivator. At a depth of about 3" the soil was very loose and fine. The ground was smooth and was nearly void of any clods. The soybeans were spread over the top and incorporated with the phoenix harrow. After running the harrow over this ground we noticed a high percentage of beans still on top of the ground so the harrow was run a second time over this test area. Again we were not satisfied with the depth of incorporation. Much of the seed was still near the surface. We were concerned that there was enough moisture to sprout the seed but with any dry weather we thought that it would run out of moisture and die.

Plot 3

In this plot we worked the cover crop ground at 2 inches with one pass of the field cultivator. The soil worked well but there were numerous clods and root balls left from the cover crop. The soybeans were applied to this plot and not incorporated. It was our goal to see what percentage



Broadcast Soybean Field Test (continued from page 7)

28-Jul-2016 1534 UTC | 38.686604, -92.686104
Unnamed Road, Clarksburg, MO 65025, USA



of a stand we could get with out covering the seed and allowing it to rain in.

As luck would have it we received a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch rain only minutes after this plot was completed. We were very pleased with the plant emergence on this plot. However, we do not think that these results could be replicated unless a big rain was eminent.

Weed Control

The type of weed control measures used on the broadcast soybean field were the same as what we used on the rowed beans on our operation. Authority Max was applied pre emerge and was later followed by an application of liberty. We did have some weather issues that did delay the Liberty application. Once we were able to spray the weed control remains excellent.

After scouting the all the soybean fields in late August, we found some insect infestation. An insecticide application of Mustang Max was applied to control the army worms and clover leaf worms that we had found. We choose not to apply any fungicide because our plant health looked excellent.

General Observations

Fertilizer spreaders are not sophisticated planting tools. The spread was good but there were spots of overlap at the outer edges of the spread pattern where the

28-Jul-2016 1535 UTC | 38.686604, -92.686249
Unnamed Road, Clarksburg, MO 65025, USA



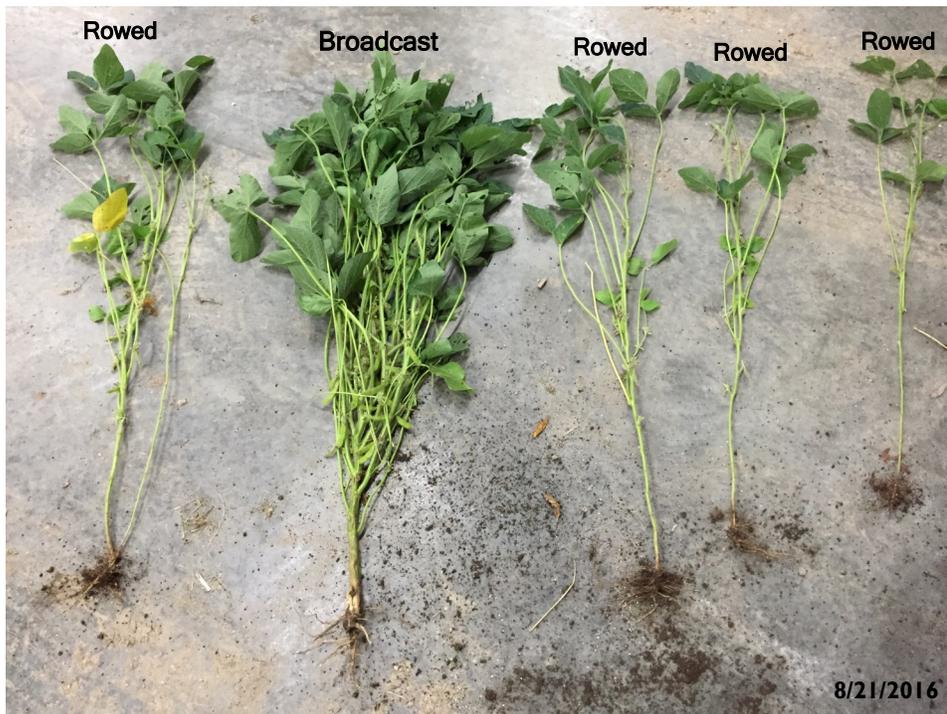
Broadcast Soybean Field Test (continued from page 8)

population was greater. Directly behind the fans the population was somewhat less but that is what might be expected in using this method. If an airship or an air seeder were to be used I am sure a more even population could be achieved. Our goal, however, was to do this test using the equipment and methods that most producers would have access to if they were to employ this practice.

The majority of this field was cultivated, planted, and incorporated with a phoenix harrow. It was our thought that this would be the best means of getting good incorporation at a consistent seed depth.

We have concluded now that this was not the best method. The phoenix harrow, even though we had it set aggressively, did not incorporate the seed uniformly. This varied planting depth caused the seed to emerge over a longer period of time. When the stand was beginning to emerge, we had serious doubts about whether or not we would even have a sufficient stand. Looking at the stand today, we do not see any ill effects of this varied planting depth.

Plot 1, by far, had the best and most consistent emergence. This is the plot that we broadcast on undisturbed soil and incorporated with one pass of the field cultivator.



The same variety. Both planted the same day. Notice the difference in plant development.

Increased tillage caused the plot to look more even during planting but this practice showed no benefit in establishing a stand.

As evidenced by the 2012 drought, the soybean is an incredible plant. An interesting result of planting by broadcast is how the soybean plant itself adapted to the way it was planted. Looking at the picture on page 9 you can see for yourself how much different the plants look when comparing the “rowed” plants versus the “broadcast” plants. We pulled our “rowed” plants out of field that was planted the same day and using the same variety of seed. While there was minimal difference in the heights of the

plants, the stalk development was quite different. The broadcast plant had a much thicker stalk, probably twice as thick as the rowed plants. There was a big difference in the foliage. As you can see in the picture the amount of foliage on the broadcast plant is as much or more than all 4 of the rowed plants put together. Pod count on the broadcast plant was almost the same as the total of the 4 rowed plants. We were very encouraged by this and are expecting that the yields off the broadcast field will be almost the same as the rowed field. Could we plant a somewhat less than normal plant population and still generate the same yields?



Broadcast Soybean Field Test (continued from page 9)

2017 Wheat Price

\$ 4.76 *

(Price as of September 7)

Wheat Price will be officially set on September 15

Wheat price is set averaging the daily close of the September Futures contract on the CME from 8/15 -9/14

Our preference is still for conventionally planted soybeans. There are times however when it would be good to have the ability to broadcast as well. Wetter field conditions would lend themselves better to broadcasting. Economically we think that there could be cost savings in broadcasting soybeans if the spreading equipment settings could be set and maintained where the seed would be applied in a uniform manner at consistent populations. If we were to employ this practice on a regular basis we would use different equipment. First, I would choose to plant the beans on undisturbed ground and incorporate them with a rolling disk harrow like a Kelly diamond harrow or continue to use a field cultivator. Second, I think the use of a field roller that is popular in the delta would

be a good tool to apply pressure to get better seed to soil contact. Currently we think that this method of planting will achieve equal results with our drilled beans. We have a field of conventionally planted beans that used the same seed and chemistry as our broadcast field that we will be comparing in our final analysis. Today we expect the results to be very similar.

Cover Crops for Farmers and Ranchers

From the end of August through September is the time period when producers will be planting cover crops on their operations. The date of establishing these crops will depend greatly on what is being planted and why the producer is planting the cover crop.

There are really two types of producers that plant cover crops. The first is the producer that plants to improve soil tilth and to scavenge the existing nutrients and bring them to the top layers of the soil.

The second is the producer that plants cover crops in order to provide forage for livestock. Their primary goal is the establishment of forage but they will also benefit from some of the soil enhancements.

Brassicas plants (turnips, radishes, kale and rape) are



usually over-seeded into a soybean crop that is used in a corn/bean rotation. These plants can provide excellent quality forage and will bring nutrients to the top of the soil that will be used by the following year's corn crop. We have seen great success in aerially applying these crops as the soybeans are nearing maturity. The leaf drop of the soybean plant gives an excellent coverage and environment for these

crops to germinate in.

For those producers that are using turnips or tillage radishes timing the planting is critical. A lot of producer's take advantage of aerial seeding the cover crop over standing corn and soybean fields to get it established prior to the harvest of the cash crop.

These plants will reach maturity in about 60 days after being established.

Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage

**YOU CAN'T CONTROL
THE WEATHER
BUT
YOU CAN BE PREPARED
FOR IT!**



**DEADLINE
November 15
For new coverage
and
Renewal of coverage**

Cover Crops for Farmers and Ranchers (continued from page 10)

Planting these crops too late will negate their benefits. They will be killed by a freeze prior to working themselves deeply into the soil structure and capturing the nutrients held below.

On my operation I have already seeded turnips and radishes over the top of a portion of my cash crops. This is being done for grazing purposes. The forage and nutrient benefits of these two plants are tremendous when used for grazing stocker cattle on fields after harvest.

Cereal crops are the most commonly used following a corn in the fall where producers practice a corn soybean rotation. Cereal rye, wheat, and barley are all good choices that can be drilled after corn harvest. Each of these plants are winter hardy and will provide excellent forage and a

large root mass to loosen the top of the soil also protecting against erosion.

Seldom should a grass plant or a cereal crop be used before corn due to the fact that these plants produce an allelopathic chemical as it decomposes that could affect the upcoming corn crop. Another concern in planting a grass crop is that these crops are affected by the same diseases that will affect a corn crop thus increasing disease pressure and possibly reducing yield on the corn.

Over the last year the price of stocker cattle have come down significantly. This has created an opportunity where row crop producers can buy these cattle, graze them on cover crops, and pencil in fairly substantial profits. This is a program that our operation has employed for a number of

years with good results. With the lower prices of grain, producers will have the opportunity to market some of their production through the cattle as well as using the cover crops.

Cattle producers should also remember that this is the time of year when you need to get pasture coverage for your livestock operation. 2016 is a prime example of how well this program worked. May and June were extremely dry over parts of Missouri and many producers found themselves collecting \$40+ per acre for those acres that were enrolled in this period. Pasture rainfall insurance provides coverage against lack of rainfall on your grazing land at a cost of around \$4 per acre per crop year. This coverage is divided into 60 day periods with most producers only insuring the summer months. On my operation I divide my acres into three 60 periods insuring 1/3 of the grazing land in May-June, another 1/3 in July – August and the final 1/3 of the acres in Sept-October.

This strategy covers the months that I need rainfall on my operation to produce the forage that my livestock depends on. I see little benefit in using months later than this in central Missouri due to frost dates and the fact that many of my forages will be going into dormancy by the end of October.



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IMPORTANT

If your farming entity has changed from last year either by death, divorce, or business type you must notify the office for a policy change immediately. Failure to do so could have serious implications for your crop coverage.

If you are unsure that your policy(s) correctly identify your entity type please contact the office as soon as possible.

(This also includes any SBI's listed on your policy)



**GIBSON
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Main Office

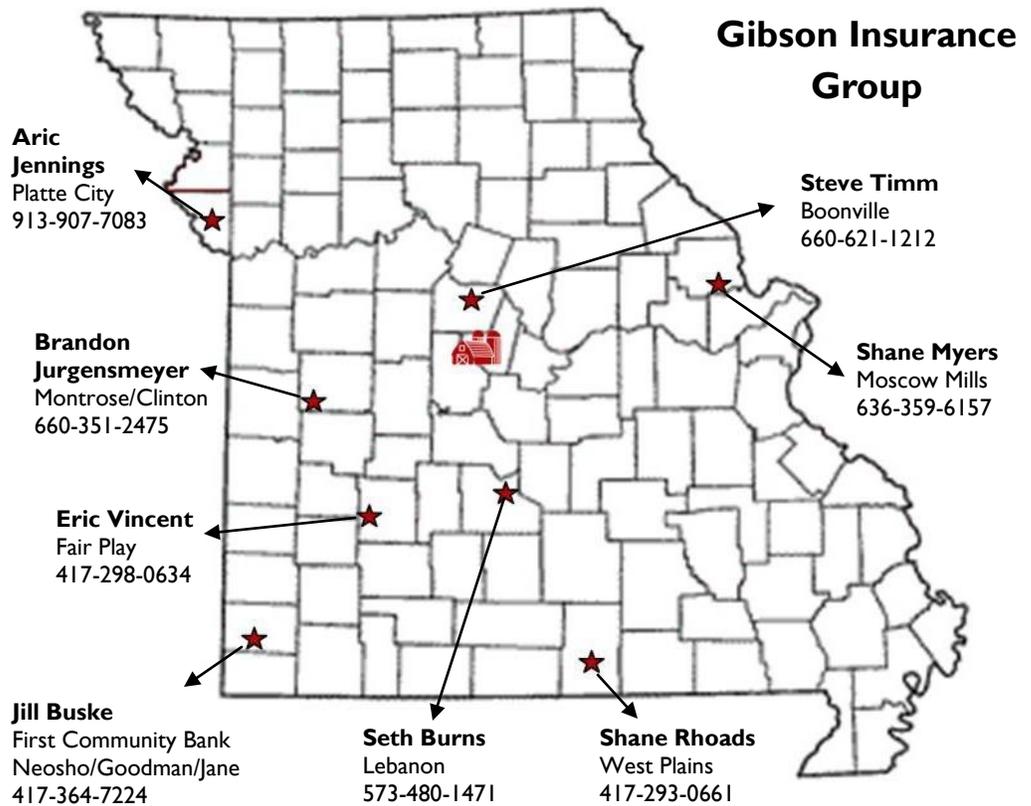
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Crop Insurance 2016



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