

## "Accessing Innovation"

### Ask Your Agronomist: Josh Hinkle

Spider mites are becoming a hot topic in the area with dry, hot weather in soybean fields. These pests can cause damages to yields by piercing plant cells and taking away photosynthetic surfaces. They can also cause injury in a variety of other plants, such as corn, but with corn drying down it's not of concern at this point as yields have been set in many areas. Flushes of spider mites into soybean fields are caused by hot, dry conditions that cause other food sources to dry down and become scarce. This causes infestations to begin on field edges and work their way in. As dry weather incurs, reproduction also begins to pick up and other population controlling factors can't keep populations in check.

As we come into conditions favoring a flush of spider mites, we begin looking in fields on the under side of leaves in stressed looking areas. These mites cause stippling on leaves that produce a white or yellow looking leaf surface. As we have been on the lookout in fields for infestations, we take magnifying glasses for identification as they're difficult to see with the naked eye. We have found minimal infestations in the area to this point, but we will continue to search as our scouting season continues. With cooler, wet weather on the way, our concerns are minimal, but we will continue to view fields closely. Agronomists have been notified of the concern in the area and are prepared to take steps for control if necessary.

### Market Update: Lincoln Hillyer

Grain markets took it on the chin this week with cooler and wetter forecasts dominating the news. Dec corn closed the week down 7 and Nov soybeans down over 50 cents.

The August S&D numbers will be out Thursday, the 10th. The trade will watch the corn yield very closely. FCStone came out with its' first estimate earlier this week showing a 162.8 national yield. That number is on the lower end of estimates. A 165-168 number is more likely to be presented Thursday. FCStone also came out with a soybean estimate of 47.7, which is in line with many other guesses.

While both yield numbers are lower than last year, we are still in a position with ample supplies. The world carryouts are large, and it will take time to work through the glut. And with the added soybean acres, beans can possibly keep our US carryout the same, if not possibly grow it.

We are continually looking to offer new products to our customers to provide options for any type of market. Don't hesitate to inquire about different contracts. Have a great weekend.

[View Grain Bids](#)

### Insect Highlight: Stink Bugs

Stink bugs are shield shaped insects as adults and usually about a ½ inch in length. Their namesake comes from their defense against predators, their foul smell. Stink bug nymphs and adults primarily attack the pods and seeds of soybean plants. They use their piercing and sucking mouthparts to remove plant fluids. They feed on the stems and foliage of the soybean plant itself, and most importantly the seeds of the soybean plant. This may cause deformed, undersized, shriveled, or aborted kernels. Stink bugs feeding during the stages of soybean seed formation can cause a very significant reduction in yield, as well. So scouting for them is vital, from the time they bloom until maturity. Closely examining the plants for feeding punctures, or small black/brown spots. Checking the edges of your field for stink bugs is one way to find potential infestations early on, if they are found on the edges, they are bound to work their way through the rest of the field, so aggressive control may be warranted. On top of robbing the plant of nutrients and deforming seeds, they are leaving soybean plants with open wounds. Those open wounds are a pathway for diseases to enter into the plant or pod, again reducing seed quality.

With late flushes of insects, a residual insecticide can help reduce late yield losses.



Brown stink bug (left) Stink bug nymph (right)

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