



Field Notes for The Week Of 7-11-2022

Don't Let Waterhemp Take Control of Your Fields!

The second week of July is here and that means it is Fair time! As I made my rounds across the county, I noticed many hard working 4-H and FFA youth out getting their livestock projects ready for show time. 4-H and FFA members work very hard tending and completing their projects and the fair provides them the opportunity to show off all the hard work they have put in. I would definitely recommend putting the fair on your to do list this week and support the future of our great country. The week of July 4th through the 9th provided a lot of the county with much needed moisture, relieving many areas of what I would like to call flash drought. Precipitation amounts recorded anywhere from 1 inch to 1.8 inches across the county. Wheat harvest is completed, I would consider the 2022 wheat crop a success with some very good yields and test weights. Double crop soybeans have been planted and the recent rain has been very favorable for germination. Second cutting hay and some third cutting alfalfa will be taking place very soon as much of our forages are recovering first harvest very well and growing fast. Fortunately, my western bean Cutworm trapping has been slow, and I placed my first squash vine borer trap at a local pumpkin producers patch. I did catch a few European Corn Bores in my traps, but the population level is low enough not to be concerned yet. I will continue to monitor due to the destructive effects of that pest. Early set burley and wrapper leaf tobacco is beginning to bloom and spread nicely and pest pressure from cutworm and hornworm is low but Japanese beetle feeding is medium to high. Much of the soybeans are entering the r1 or first flower stage and corn is beginning to shoot a tassel.

As I scout many fields, I believe farmers are looking for a good crop so far (a little on the late side but still good) but I do have some concern of the growing presence of waterhemp in many crop fields. Waterhemp is a noxious weed that belongs to the Amaranth family or often referred to the pigweed family. These weeds are dioecious species meaning that there are male and female plants, while both will have flowers the female plant will be the only plant that contains seed. One female Waterhemp plant can produce up to 1 million seeds and 20% of these seeds can be viable the first year, this can equate to roughly 50,000 new plants the first year! Mid – June to early July is the best time to scout for these invasive weeds and controlling them before they reach heights of 4 inches, or the length of your index finger is critical. If Waterhemp does get away from your grasp and produces a seed head, I recommend walking the field and cutting the seed head off, remove it from the field and burn it. Herbicide programs with residual is important due to many cases of herbicide resistance to post emergent herbicides. Waterhemp has shown resistance to many herbicides including ALS or site 2 herbicides (pursuit, harmony, plateau, first rate), Site 9 (glyphosate) and site 14 herbicides (Spartan, cobra, flexstar, valor, sharpen). The most recent and concerning resistance found in some areas has been with 2-4-D. The bottom line is, be sure to scout early and often, control when these weeds are small, and mix up your herbicide program to reduce resistance.

