Tuesday – July 14, 2020

BILL: And good morning and welcome it’s our Tuesday edition of Ag Talk. Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz. Our topic today, Phytophthora in Soybeans.

ED: Bill, this is the one that comes later on what we call the stem infection the phytophthora and you know we put seed treatments out there that catch up with the seedling when it can really take out the whole field. And we’re not seeing phytophthora, per say, out there in the area right now. We’re really dry but we have these potential thunderstorms coming through and we could have localized areas that could get a really heavy one to two inch rain in a very small area make that field really wet for you know a day or so a short time area from intense rainfall, which we can get in the summertime, that can create the conditions where the phytophthora can come back and particularly in soybean varieties that are susceptible. So if you have not really selected things for that tolerance you might run into this. And it’s kind of disheartening to the farmer when this occurs because you got this great looking beanfield out there and then all of a sudden after this heavy rain and about a week later you get these pockets where the beans just look like they’re melting or just dying for no reason. And that’s how this phytophthora works, you know, it will come up through the soil through the roots, it will get into the stem and it will damage that stem tissue and then the stem can’t take up moisture and nutrients and it basically will just die from starvation and lack of water because of the disease. It’s very evident that the disease symptoms when you look at the lower stem base of the soybean plant that this disease has come in after heavy rains you’re going to have these sunken areas or legions as we call it and that’s just characteristic of phytophthora where oh about an inch above the soil surface, anywhere from an inch up to six inches up that stem you will see these legions and it looks like the stem has just been chewed on by a rodent but it’s this disease that’s come in. And that’s the characteristic and it can just take out an area of bean field in no time. And so just want to alert farmers that, you know, we’re not just past this. Hopefully they picked genetics that has some resistance to it but nothing is totally resistant to it and it’s fairly common and can happen if we do get several storm systems come through or just an individualized field can get it cause you don’t understand and say I don’t see it anywhere else why here. And this disease is always in our soil and it’s kind of like the state disease of northwest Ohio. So we always have that potential. The worst time is at planting that’s why we use seed treatments but later on it has to be just the resistance of the plant and also the right weather conditions, or I should say the susceptibility of the plant and the right weather conditions and we can get these pockets where we can lose beans due to our favorite disease phytophthora.

BILL: Thank you Ed. For Ag Talk this is Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz. Good morning to you.

Ed: Good morning.