

Tuesday – July 7, 2020

BILL: And good morning and welcome into our Tuesday edition of Ag Talk. This is Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz and today Ed, we're concentrating on the development of corn.

ED: You know, a lot of times there's a phrase out there, Bill, knee high by the fourth of July. I've always thought that was a weird one cause that's not really all that tall of corn but that's where we are this year pretty well most of the corn was knee high by the fourth of July. It is shorter this year not necessarily less mature just shorter because of the dry weather we got shorter internodes that has affected its growth so the corn may actually be further along in its development stage than we may actually realize because we are just looking at the height that we have on that corn out there. Probably most of the corn in our area is either at growth stage V7 to V 12, that would mean 7 collared leaves or 12 collared leaves. A corn plant when it completely gets all of its leaves out by tasseling we look at anywhere from 18-20 leaves on there. So we're got a ways to go before tasseling but this heat will move things right along. I do want to remind our audience though, that the corn plant is kind of like a computer program. It is what we call, it's basically got certain things that are going to happen at certain temperatures and so forth and those are what we call yield components. And so for example, we know when the corn is at the V6 stage, you know that's back there when it's pretty short still, the shoots and the tassels and the number of everything that's going to be in the ear is already developed and that's what we call the growing point. If it gets damaged here it's basically knocking out your yield. By the time the corn plant is in V8 we know that the potential numbers of rows that that ear can have are already determined. Now if we had really severe stress at that time we would have less rows but it really has to be very severe and it usually has to be a very severe drought early in the season for that row number to be affected. But the other yield component how many kernels per row that we have, which is going to be determined by the plant between V12 and V15, that one can change and adapt to what the weather is. In fact this dry weather period that we've had as we are coming into the V12 in some places, it may reduce the number of potential kernels that we can have per row. And so it could affect our yield in there and that's probably the one that's played with the most is how many kernels per ear as that plants adapts to what environments going on at that time and a developmental stage as its trying to set up what its factory is going to be for the ear later on. Keep in mind it take about 120 growing degree days to get a corn plant to emerge. Once we go from VE to tenth leaf stage it takes 83 growing degree days and after that it drops down to 53 as the plants heads are tasseling. So right now we're determine our yield for corn.

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

Ed: Good morning.