Wednesday – July 8, 2020

BILL: And good morning and welcome into our Wednesday edition of Ag Talk. This is Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz and Ed, yesterday we looked at the development of corn. Today we put the spotlight on soybeans.

ED: Our soybeans are different than corn. The soybeans that we plant here are called indeterminant plants and the corn is a determinant plant. And what we mean by that a when the corn plant sends up its tassel and you start seeing the silks and that, it’s done vegetatively, you’ll get no more leaves. It’s finished so something cut off that plant you won’t get more leaves and another ear. The soybean plant on the other hand is indeterminant that we grow and so once flowering starts it will continue to produce some leaves and also do flowers. Takes longer a lot of energy for that soybean plant to do that and as a result that’s why we can see corn plants have over 200 bushels and soybeans we’re working around 50 bushels because that energy demand to do that. But is also gives us opportunities Bill, if we do get dry the soybean plant can recover and produce new flowers unlike the corn plant. A flowering beans is going to be triggered by day lengths. As the day lengths get shorter after that summer solstice, that genetics at a certain time period when the days are this long it will tell it to flower. And then we can stage soybeans. Once we get our first flower we switch to what we call reproductive staging no longer talking about vegetative growth. To do that you got to look at the four top nodes of the plant and that’s where the leaves and the flowers are coming from are those nodes it’s kind of like a growing region. And then the very top one has to have an open leaf for you to count it. When we get one flower on that plant anywhere that’s what we call growth stage R1, if two flowers its growth stage R2. It’s important to know if you are in R1 or R2 because a lot of our herbicides have restrictions that you can’t apply them after growth stage R2. So you need to understand how to do this. The next stage is going to be into what we call pod development and R3 will occur when you got those top four nodes again if you got at least one pod that’s 3/16 of an inch long, or I basically say, Bill, if I can see it, I’m not going to measure with a ruler, then you’re at R3. Once we get to later on we can see some damage from other herbicides. We got flash damage from Roundup, we can get some pod abortion where the bean plant drops pods if it’s too much stress, and then there’s an herbicide, Flexstar, that more people are also using. As we get later into the season and it continues to be dry we’re going to have to worry about Flexstar carryover in the following year’s corn crop. So go out there and see where your beans are, pay attention to your herbicide labels, and hopefully we’ll get some showers and get a good bean crop this year.

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

Ed: Good morning.