Monday – June 1, 2020

BILL: And good morning and welcome into Monday and another week of Ag Talk. This is Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz. And Ed today scout corn for emergence problems is the topic.

ED: Bill, as you drive around the county a lot of people can see we have corn coming up. Some in different stages. Some was planted the latter part of April, some more the first of May but at this time with the heat we had last week things are moving along. And this is really the time when you need to start looking for potential problems in the corn and to identify them. Some of them we could still possibly still correct. Others if we lost enough stand we still have time to replant. And then other ones just for future reference so if we made a mistake, we correct it for future time periods which would be next year. So to just give an idea here there is certain things we look for and probably the most common one that we often times see is what we call uneven emergence and it literally is what the words are the corn plants are not all coming up at the same time. It generally makes the farmer concerned what’s going on. That’s generally an indicator of soil conditions. We may not have had the right temperature, too much moisture, or we could have crusting at the top it’s having trouble breaking through the soil surface. Also, the farmer planted shallow. All those could lead to uneven emergence. So the farmer needs to ask the question after I planted what were the growing conditions like and what was my soil conditions like when I planted. But then there’s other ones that we can just notice patterns of poor emergence where things just aren’t coming up in certain areas. We may start digging that row and find there’s no seeds present and we know we planted them. And that often time could be a planter malfunction didn’t drop the seeds or also birds will actually get out there and pull them up and take them out of there and rodents such as field mice and things will also eat them and remove them. Another symptom we see is what we call leafing out underground, in other words, normally when the seedling comes up it hits sunlight and opens up the whorl, well if some reason that the sunlight got into a crack where it was coming up, that could cause it leaf out and open up sooner than that and that could be anywhere from I planted it when the soil was too wet or it could be herbicide damage on there. Other signs of herbicide damage would be discolored seed and malformed seedlings. So we can look at the different types of herbicides we use and see if they have the characteristics of that. If the seed looks like you got the shell but its been hollowed out that could be some insect damage from seed corn maggots or wireworms. There you can look for evidence of the actual worm to prove that that’s what is going on there. So these are all different things that’s a good time for the farmer to get out there and check their field, see what their stands are, and see if the need to make remedies or maybe change some practices next year.

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

Ed: Good morning.