Tuesday – June 16, 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, an evaluation on soybean stands.

ED: Bill, several weeks ago or three weeks ago we had a really bad rain. We’ve had periods where we could have heavy rains come in and farmers always get concerned can they still replant in the calendar window is it something I should do. I wanted to address that here on evaluating their soybean stands. Soybeans are different than corn. Soybeans have an ability to take care of a lot of different things. And so when we look at the soybean plant they can get new growth at any node of that plant. So they can branch out and basically compensate for a low standing setup. So if you have a low population you get more branching. It could be that the plants are going to be closer to the ground which may cause problems at harvesting but they can compensate and all these new branches and new growth and nodes can put on more flowers and compensate for it. So even though you may have planted 170,000, from the work we have done if you got planted back there in May, if you have 100,000 plants still alive per acre out there, you could get 90% yield as a normal crop. And of course, if you have that it’s not going to pay you to replant cause it will cost more which you will lose to do the replant. But you got to know what your population is, Bill, so you got to go out there and look at and do some stand counts as we call it out there. We basically want to get a count that’s equal to 1/1000 of an acre so you can do easy math and just multiply that number by 1000 and you got your plants per acre. So if you have 7½ inch row spacing, you want to measure out 70 foot row and then count the number of plants and of course do this in several places in the field to get a sense of what the whole field is. If you’re in a 15 inch row spacing for the beans you want to measure out a 35 foot row to count the number of plants, and then if you are in a 30 inch spacing you want to measure out 17½ feet to get how many plants per acre out there. So go out there and see what you have. If you are at least at 100,000 plants there is no reason it will most likely not pay to do a replant. You know the biggest thing always with soybeans is not so much what my population is, as long as it’s not extremely low, is going to be our August rains. And so you might have a perfect stand right now if we don’t get August rains we just get average at best yields, so if we get the rains generally even at low population we are going to get real decent yields. And then of course you have to put other decisions on if you’re going to do a replant and that but we’re going to talk about that tomorrow. So for now get out there and see what your stands are and make a final decision if you are going to replant or not in these thin fields.

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

Ed: Good morning.