Wednesday – June 3, 2020

BILL: And welcome into our Wednesday edition of Ag Talk. Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz. It’s a wheat Wednesday Ed and a critical time in the growth for wheat.

ED: This is more of a review, we talked about it a week ago where people needed to pay attention about head scab because last week a lot of the wheat was beginning to flower with those warmer temperatures we had. And the models that I followed that wheat period it showed us that we had a pretty good risk for head scab something that we have not seen in a wide for the county for quite a while. So hopefully at that time a farmer was alert to it and when they saw the flowering they put on the fungicide. If they didn’t they still probably could go out there today depending on when their wheat flowered and still maybe get some benefit from it. The head scab models that we use, Bill, we always have to look at the susceptibility of the variety. Generally most farmers have what we call moderately susceptible. The highly susceptible in whole county was at risk last week if it was flowering and even at the moderately susceptible a third of the county had a high risk. So this is the year that we are seeing much more potential for head scab than we have had in past years. Like I said, it’s not totally a moot point at this time but for those who paid the extra money for fungicide it may have paid off this time. And the other thing to remember even if we didn’t have a head scab problem it will help them with other diseases we can get in the grain if we turn wet. The other concern we have now too, and we can’t do a whole lot in wheat cause we are approaching that 30 days of harvest, most pesticides including fungicides and insecticides, they have a 30 day interval that if you spray you got to wait 30 days to harvest so we are approaching that. And then some other reminders for a wheat update. Wheat does not like hot temperatures. When temperatures go above 90 degrees in wheat, the plant basically shuts down. If we get too many of it, it will basically just stop absorbing nutrients and that and say we’re done for the year. And so a lot of times since there are hot temperatures that can really take out the edge or what I call that nice final part of getting some good yields there. So we’ll wait and see and hopefully the temperatures stay below 90 in June. The other thing is we keep reminding people is wheat actually likes temperatures in the 70’s. It does well in dry weather. That’s where it’s brought from is a dryer region. So we always got a little bit of a challenge of June trying to be warmer than the wheat would like. But they need to look where they are when wheat flowered. Basically, we are now set for the home stretch not a whole lot more we can do, what we got is what we got and let’s just hope Mother Nature will be nice to us.

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

Ed: Good morning.