

Stripe Rust Found In South Dakota

BROOKINGS — Stripe rust was found on winter wheat in several South Dakota locations the week of May 21.

The USDA Cereal Disease Lab reports that stripe rust appeared at nearly the same time in Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Ontario, Canada, suggesting that there were likely one or more recent very large spore shower events. If cool, wet conditions persist, stripe rust can be expected to spread aggressively, whereas warm temperatures and dry conditions will cause it to shut down, says Bob Fanning, SDSU Extension Plant Pathology Field Specialist.

“Leaf rust has been reported in southern Nebraska, but to date, no farther north. With winter wheat rapidly progressing, much of it flowering or nearly flowering, producers will need to make fungicide decisions soon if they haven’t already,” Fanning said.

Fanning reminds growers to read and follow label directions and adhere to harvest intervals.

“Foliar fungicide application decisions at this stage should be based on yield potential, progression of residue borne diseases from the lower leaves, weather forecasts and risk of head scab and rust diseases,” Fanning said.

View the Resource Library and links section of iGrow Wheat (<http://igrow.org/agronomy/wheat/>) for the following resources: USDA Cereal Disease Laboratory — Progression of leaf, stripe and other rust situations moving up from the South can be monitored

Use the “Risk Map Tool” on the “Wheat Fusarium Head Blight Prediction Center” website to monitor head scab risk

For information on fungicide recommendations, access SDSU Extension publications “South Dakota Wheat Fungicide Recommendations” and “Managing Crop Diseases with Fungicides.” Additional information regarding resistance and variety performance can be found in 2011 Winter Wheat Variety Yield Results and 2012 Spring Wheat Variety Recommendations and 2011 Variety Performance Results.

If you have additional questions about stripe rust or other plant diseases, contact your local SDSU Extension Plant Pathology Field Specialist by contacting your SDSU Extension Regional Center, contact information available at iGrow.org.

Deadline Looms For NFU Women’s Conference

WASHINGTON — National Farmers Union has announced that the deadline has been extended to sign up for its upcoming Women’s Conference. Based on the well-respected “Annie’s Project” education program, it is a conference for farm and rural women. The event, set for June 21-23, will provide participants with tools and information to confidently manage risks in their farm or ranch operations. Registration is open to anyone who is interested. Registration materials must be postmarked by June 7.

“Women have been the cornerstones of family farm agriculture, going back to the days of homesteading,” said NFU President Roger Johnson. “This conference gives women the opportunity to gain an understanding of and experience in farm risk management.”

A variety of trained instructors will teach family farm finances, budgeting and cash flow, cooperatives, marketing, farm transfer and estate planning, business planning, leadership assessment and skills, generational issues, and action planning.

The conference will be held at the NFU Education Center at Bailey, Colo. The registration will cover camp-style lodging in the Rocky Mountains, catered meals, and conference materials. U.S. Department of Agriculture Deputy Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Rebecca Blue has also been invited to speak at the conference. More information and registration details are available at www.nfu.org/education.

“Annie’s Project” also helps women find new ways to balance the demands of family, community and professionalism within the agricultural community. The conference is sponsored by Farm Credit, CoBank, FUI Foundation and the NFU Foundation.

Youth Safety Training Workshops Start June 8

BROOKINGS — South Dakota youth planning to work on farms are encouraged to attend Hazardous Occupation and Safety Training workshop in Agriculture hosted by SDSU Extension.

Workshops will be held June 8 at the Winner Regional Extension Center, June 11 at the Ag Biosystems Engineering Building on the SDSU Campus in Brookings, and June 14 at Potter County Implement in Gettysburg. The workshops all begin at 10 a.m. CDT.

The Hazardous Occupations Order in Agriculture (HOOA) law states that any individual who is 14 to 15 years old must receive training on the safe operation of tractors, farm machinery and other hazardous activities in the agricultural industry.

Fourteen- and 15-year-old youths who are working on their home or family farm are exempt from the training and certification requirements.

Each session will include classroom instruction from 10 a.m.-noon. To qualify for a HOSTA certificate, youth attending will take a closed book, written test, followed by skills and driving tests during the afternoon. The cost of the training is \$15, which includes a noon meal.

Youth must be 14 years of age to receive a HOSTA certificate. Youth who are 13 years of age are welcome to attend the training, and complete the written, skills and driving tests. They will receive their HOSTA certificate when they turn 14.

Youth desiring to receive a HOSTA certificate should study the 48 “core” task sheets accessible on the HOSTA website: <http://www.sd-state.edu/abe/extension/hosta/task-sheets/index.cfm>. Youth who only work on their family farm or otherwise do not need a HOSTA certificate are also welcome to attend.

To pre-register and for more information contact Nicholas Uilk, at 688-5675 or nicholas.uilk@sdstate.edu or Bob Fanning at 605-842-1267 or robert.fanning@sdstate.edu.

Property Appraisal Seminar Slated For S.F.

The American Society of Agricultural Appraisers (ASAA) will offer a 4 1/2 day Personal Property Appraisal seminar in Sioux Falls June 13-17.

The ASAA seminar is specifically designed for those who desire to enter the livestock, farm equipment and/or horse appraisal field, and for those who are already doing agricultural, personal property appraisals. Seminar participants will learn how to appraise machinery, livestock and horses in compliance with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP). These are the national appraisal standards all professional appraisers use and are often required when doing appraisals for businesses such as banks, insurance companies, attorneys, accountants, and government agencies.

Seminar topics include: principles of appraising, how to use the three recognized professional approaches for determining property values, how to conduct market research and analysis, methods for adjusting value differences between subject properties and their comparable properties, how to prepare and write three different types of appraisal reports and when to use each one, and how to establish a personal property appraisal business. Participants will also receive ASAA’s Appraisal Report Writer software that will format and completely type your appraisal reports. By successfully completing the course, participants will earn 35 hours of core education credit that may be applied toward meeting the Personal Property Appraiser Minimum Qualifications Criteria adopted by the Appraiser Qualifications Board (AOB). The AOB is a part of the Appraisal Foundation which regulates the appraisal profession under the authority of the United States Congress.

For more seminar information, call (800) 488-7570 or visit www.amagappraisers.com.

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Dairies Pamper Cows With Chiropractors, Waterbeds

BY DINESH RAMDE
Associated Press

CHILTON, Wis. — Lucky, a 7-year-old dairy cow, had been walking with a limp for several weeks when veterinarian Sara Gilbertson was called. Instead of prescribing painkillers, Gilbertson tried an unusual new therapy — a chiropractic adjustment that included a full-length spinal massage.

Gilbertson rubbed the Holstein’s spine by gently squeezing it from neck to tail, pausing to apply firm pressure to one hip and readjust several vertebrae. The cow stood in calm silence, moving only enough to reach another mouthful of hay. Later, as Lucky reclined on a bed of sand, Gilbertson noted with satisfaction how relaxed and comfortable the animal seemed.

Cow comfort has become a key concern for the nation’s farmers, who have known for generations that contented cows give more milk. The traditional techniques for keeping cows happy aren’t complicated — feed them well, keep the temperature comfortable and give them room to move around. But some dairy farmers are turning to a new array of creative options intended to keep cows as mellow — and productive — as possible.

Some farmers have installed waterbeds for their cows to rest on, while others play classical music. And some hire animal chiropractors to give older cows a tuneup and correct minor issues in calves, all part of the effort to ensure maximum milk output.

Do the methods really work? There’s no sound scientific data to back up the claims, but dairy farmers say they can see the difference with their own eyes — cows are giving more milk, the milk quality is improving and the herds seem to be enjoying the indulgences.

“It’s kind of like how an athlete with a sprained ankle isn’t as productive,” said Larry Meyer, 36, whose parents own the dairy farm in Chilton, Wis., where Lucky and another 115 dairy cows live. “If you can get a cow healthy and back to normal, it makes a difference in their productivity.”

Cows can suffer injuries if they slip on a

Comfortable Cows

HAPPY COWS: Dairy farmers know that contented cows give more milk, and some are turning to a new array of creative options intended to keep cows as mellow — and productive — as possible.

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The Associated Press.

slick spot of concrete or get stepped on by another 1,500-pound bovine, and some calves get their necks kinked during the birthing process. The injuries can cause pain when the animals stand, making them reluctant to jostle for food and leading to compensatory injuries. That, in turn, leads to less milk production.

That’s why farmers are willing to spend about \$75 per session for a chiropractic adjustment.

“The cows tolerate it incredibly well,” said Gilbertson, the veterinarian. “They may be apprehensive at first, until they figure out how good it feels.”

Meyer didn’t have specific figures on how much milk Lucky gave following her chiropractic treatments, but because her mother was the most productive cow in the herd, he wanted to make sure Lucky was in good shape.

While chiropractic care is reserved for injured cows, dairy farmers also are investing in healthy cows’ happiness.

Richard Conrad installed \$70,000 wa-

terbeds on his farm in Grafton, Ohio, about a year ago. It took the 220 dairy cows a few months to adjust to the softer surface but now they seem to enjoy it, he said.

“They were real skeptical at first because it was real jiggly,” said Conrad, 53, “but once they adapted they didn’t look back. They just jump on and stay there.”

The result has been milk with fewer impurities and in greater volume — cows that used to give about 80 pounds of milk per day now average about 90 pounds, Conrad said. However, he couldn’t credit the waterbeds with all the improvement; he also upgraded ventilation in his barns and installed misting technology to keep the herd cool.

Dairy farmers commonly adjust air, temperature and lighting to keep cows happy. Some have also installed large rotating brushes that gently scratch the cows’ backs and massage their faces and shoulders, said Marcia Endres, a University of Minnesota Extension dairy scientist.

And some dairy producers have employed even more unusual techniques, even in absence of scientific data that justifies their use. In Germany, for example, the Dortmund Concert Hall plays recordings of different classical pieces for specific cows. The hall then serves milk from the respective cows during live concerts featuring those same pieces.

“Which means you’ll now be able to both listen to and taste the musical highlights,” the hall says in one advertisement.

Dairy experts agree the concept is entertaining, if a bit of a logical stretch. They also agree that dairy farmers need to be careful about introducing new techniques — music, waterbeds, chiropractic care — into a herd that’s already relatively comfortable.

“Cows are creatures of habit. They like things to stay the same,” Endres said. “So many producers like to not introduce too much change. Cows just don’t like a lot of weird things happening to them.”

Dinesh Ramde can be reached at dramde@ap.org.

Weekly Crop Progress Reports Available

BROOKINGS — The South Dakota weekly crop progress and condition index graphics report is now available on iGrow, the teaching platform used by SDSU Extension to assure state of the art program delivery. It allows individual users to access Extension information and resources 24-7.

“The crop progress and condition index graphics report is a great resource for South Dakota agriculture producers and agri-professionals,” says Don Guthmiller, SDSU Extension Agronomy Business Management Field Specialist. “By reviewing the information each week,

they can easily see what their progress is compared to the rest of the state and country.”

Each week throughout the growing season Guthmiller works with the crop and forage planting and growth data provided by USDA National Ag Statistics Service (NASS) and puts together easy-to-read graphs and other pertinent information in a PowerPoint presentation that is now available on iGrow.org.

The weekly crop progress and condition index report is located on iGrow under the Agronomy and Livestock links click on “Profit Tips.”

It’s the first of the month...

JUNE						
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6:45 p.m.	Keynote Address by Bruce Vincent
7:30 p.m.	Master of Ceremonies: Matt Michels

Tickets and more information is available by calling the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce at 665-3636 or online at www.yanktonsd.com/aggala.
Deadline for tickets - June 8

Proceeds from the auction will go to benefit the P.A.Y. scholarship fund.