**Corn Disease Situation**

Southern rust on corn was reported last week in Seminole Co., GA, which is located about 40 to 50 miles SE of Dothan, AL. Bob Kemeriat, the Extension Plant Pathologist with UGA has advised growers in southern GA to apply a fungicide for rust control to their corn. It’s possible that the tropical storm several weeks ago moved the disease from Florida into Georgia. See the attached Pioneer announcement from Rob Duffield on southern rust.

So far, southern rust has not made an appearance in Alabama. Until the last couple of days, weather patterns have not been conducive for disease development in corn. Prevalent winds should push any inoculum to the east and not into Alabama. Finally, a good bit of the irrigated corn in South Alabama has almost matured past the point (GS R2 to R4) that southern rust would not impact yield. So at this point, there appear to be little need for corn producers to make a late fungicide application to protect corn from southern rust. I will inspect the corn variety trials at Headland on Wednesday for rust symptoms.

Common rust has been widely distributed this year but damage levels in field corn are low. Some sweet corn plantings, particularly in Fairhope and Brewton, have been damaged to the point that preventative fungicide treatments should have been made. Northern corn leaf blight has been active in some fields and move into the upper leaf canopy. A study last year suggested that a 20 to 30% loss in ear leaf area is required before NCLB-induced yield losses occur.

I’ve not had an opportunity to look at corn in North Alabama. If anyone’s seen much disease activity, let me know. Weather in that area has been pretty favorable for gray leaf spot.

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*Additional information from Pioneer (link here the file I am attaching)*