



May OPERATIONS REPORT

CONTROLLED SOLIDS — URBAN SPREADING
<u>Calumet</u> No Application this month

CLASS B FARMLAND SPREADING
<u>Calumet</u> 1,209.56
<u>Lasma</u> 2,491.90

FARMER/RESIDENT CONTACTS

Synagro has worked with existing MWRDGC farmers to expand acres to the MWRDGC program:

Larry Hamann	400 acres
Darren Staufenburd	225 acres
Gene Radmacher	50 acres
Jim Henke	80 acres





## ODOR MINIMIZATION

For the landowner notifications. In May Synagro sent out approximately 33 letters notifying adjacent landowners of biosolids applications in their area. Synagro team members knocked on 12 doors within a ¼ mile of permitted fields to educate residents about the benefits of biosolids application to farmland. No complaints were received and to minimize odor complaints, Synagro does not exceed 24 hours field storage and incorporates in 6 hours or less after application.



Photo courtesy of aganytime.com

### Mystery looms over '16 wheat estimates

Karen Binder, Field Editor

Tuesday, June 07, 2016 2:00 PM

BELLEVILLE, Ill. — A mild winter, followed by a temperate and wet spring, and disease pressures are adding up to an unusual year for Illinois' wheat crop. Wheat growers throughout southern Illinois gathered to size up progress of this year's wheat harvest. Small groups in four regions took tiller counts and local field estimates before meeting at Southern Illinois University's Belleville Research Center in St. Clair County to share information.

Based on the day's work, the average per acre yield estimate is 63.5 bushels, down from 65 bushels in 2015 and 67 bushels in 2014. While a majority of the fields examined recently at first glance looked healthy and productive, the following week is believed to reveal more indicators of the crop's long-term health and disease susceptibility, especially from a scourge seen only every seven to eight years that's beginning to emerge — striped rust.

"This is a perfect year for rust. It probably overwintered because of the warm winter and then we had that cool and wet spring," said Fred Kolb, a University of Illinois plant breeder and scab researcher. "This is something we don't see as a big problem every year, but we do see it every seven to eight years." The striped rust is showing up in unsprayed fields planted with non-resistant scab varieties. It appears as pockets of brown or orange and can spread throughout an entire field in three days.

Striped rust appears early in the season with bright orange pustules in rows. The disease will reduce yield, create low test weights and raise toxin levels. Fungicide treatments are effective, Kolb said. He and other wheat experts could not emphasize the importance of planting disease-resistant varieties and use a well-timed fungicide application. This means carefully watching for flowering in the fields for proper timing to spray fungicides within a three-day window of flowering.

"What the crop will look like is a big mystery," explained Bob Frank, former longtime director for the Illinois Wheat Association. "The next seven days will be most important to see if head scale will develop, and we already do know there's flag leaf loss." This leaves only the stems and the lower leaves to direct food and energy into full head development and filling out the grains, a condition that could greatly stunt the harvest.

Kolb also suggested turning up the air on the combines during harvest to blow down scab-covered grains. This will help improve overall test weight and reduce raising the load's toxin level, both factors affecting sampling at the elevator. It also was added that wheat that flowered before May 3 likely will be safe, while anything flowering from May 5 to 13 may be especially susceptible. Caution also was shared about drying the grain if harvesting at higher moisture content. It was suggested to use moderate heat to reach 18 percent moisture instead of high heat and degrading the wheat's protein content.

#### SYNAGRO Biosolids Public Relations Report

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