New tile drainage technologies at field day

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New tile drainage technologies at field day

Abstract
Iowa’s bountiful harvests wouldn’t be a reality without underground drainage. After years of installing tile in farm fields to increase drainage to improve yields and profits, questions are being asked about environmental impacts. New technologies that may minimize negative environmental impacts will be installed July 12 at the Iowa State University (ISU) Southeast Iowa Research and Demonstration Farm near Crawfordsville.

Disciplines
Agricultural Education | Agricultural Science | Agriculture | Bioresource and Agricultural Engineering

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Degree Days

A dry beginning
by Rich Pope, Department of Entomology

This week finds Iowa just slightly above the seasonal average in degree day accumulations. The lack of rainfall in many parts of Iowa has been a recent topic of discussion.

Posted here are the precipitation deficits by crop reporting district from May 1 through June 11. With the exception of northeast and east central Iowa, it has been a dry start to the growing season. The question, “how critical are the current deficits to the growing crop?” is best answered, “it depends.” Row crop performance is not driven so much by precipitation alone, but by moisture available to roots. For much of the state, we entered the season with pretty good subsoil moisture. However, the longer we stay dry, the more demand on those moisture reserves. And remember, June is our wettest month, and June deficits make it more difficult to make up lost ground in mid- to late summer. So, although we aren’t in horrible shape now, the situation does bear monitoring.

Rich Pope is an extension program specialist in entomology with responsibilities in integrated pest management.