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Serving Clay, Buena Vista, Dickinson, Emmet, Kossuth, and Palo Alto Counties

Corn planting progress. The USDA- NASS crop progress report shows that 59/61% of the corn is planted in the northwest/north central crop reporting districts as of April 27. Corn planting progress was 3% for the entire state as of April 26, 2008.

Corn planting dates. The info that follows is from a data of planting study that is located at the ISU Northeast Research and Demonstration farm near Nashua.

1981-03 Planting Date	1981-03 Emerge Date	1981-03 Silk Date	1981-03 Harvest H2O	1981-03 Yield Bu/ac	1997-03 Yield Bu/ac
April 22	May 10	July 20	19.4	150	181
May 5	May 18	July 23	20.5	152	181
May 17	May 25	July 29	22.2	145	177
June 1	June 10	Aug 6	25.7	128	146

This data shows the following generalizations.

- silking date is delayed 2-3 days for every one week delay in planting date.
- Grain moisture is 1.0% wetter for every week delay in planting until mid-May.
- Grain yields are similar from late April to mid-May planting dates.
- Yields decline about 2.0 bu/day from mid-May to late May.

Early planting dates for corn are beneficial for corn production because:

- The silking date occurs earlier in the season.
- Early silking allows the corn plant to begin the grain filling process earlier in the season (mid-July versus late July).
- Soil moisture, air temperature and length of day are more favorable for corn when grain fill begins in mid-July as compared to late July or early August.

Alfalfa stands. Alfalfa winter kill/injury is more evident in some hay fields. Corn or soybeans can be planted where significant stand losses have occurred. Consider corn where the previous hay field had a good stand of alfalfa – since alfalfa can supply the nitrogen needs of a corn crop.

Consider an oat and red clover mix to patch or thicken up damaged alfalfa stands. The oats can be harvested as hay in late June. The red clover will not be affected by the old alfalfa plants and will contribute to hay yields in mid to late summer.

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