

## Crops Bulletin

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### **Soybean harvest loss.**

- 4 soybeans per square foot equal one bu/a loss.
- Include soybeans that are in uncut stubble in harvest loss.

**A hidden loss** occurs when soybeans are harvested at less than 13% moisture. This loss occurs because dry matter is substituted for moisture content.

- The loss is 0.6 bu/a acre per point of grain moisture.
- Example - soybeans harvested at 10% moisture would have a 1.8 bu/a loss.
- This is based on 50 bushel per acre yield levels- losses increase at higher yield levels.
- Harvest losses are in addition to this hidden loss.

**Losses occur** when soybeans are delivered at moisture contents above 13.0 % moisture also.

- A grain elevator may assess a 2 to 3% shrink for every point of moisture above 13%.
- The actual moisture loss shrink is 1.2% per bushel.
- The remaining 0.8 to 1.8% shrink represents a drying and/or grain handling expense.
- Soybeans delivered at 14.0% and assessed a 2% shrink would have a loss of 0.4 bu/a. This loss is less than the hidden loss listed above. Harvest losses at 14% moisture are also likely less than soybean harvest at 12% moisture.
- Soybeans delivered at 14.0% and assessed a 3% shrink would have a loss of 0.9 bu/a.

**Managing grain moisture** in soybeans at harvest is never easy. Sometimes no good options exist. The above listed info may help to develop some understanding of soybean grain moisture.

**Grain drying info.** The University of Minnesota has a good [web page](#) on grain drying and handling. Grain drying, low temp drying, aeration and stored grain management are some of the topics covered at this web site.