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Prepared by
Paul Kassel
Extension Field
Agronomist

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

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Natural air drying of soybeans. Natural air drying of soybeans means using 1.0 cfm per bushel of air flow. Fans will deliver roughly 1000 cubic feet of air per minute (cfm) per horsepower of fan size. Therefore a 10 horsepower fan on a 10,000 bushel bin full of soybeans will deliver 1.0 cfm/bu. Added heat is generally not used. However, if heat is added to natural air drying it is a very small burner that may only raise the temperature of the air stream 3 to 5 degrees.

- Natural air drying will dry soybean to 11% with normal fall conditions. However the cool weather so far this fall will reduce the drying capacity of natural air drying.
- Soybeans will dry 2.0 points dryer than corn with the same conditions.
- Natural air drying is a slow process – it may take a week or two to take 2-3 points of moisture out of the soybeans.

High temperature drying of soybeans.

- It is best not to exceed 130 degrees F (100 degrees F may be better).
- Air flow needs to be 1.0 cfm/bu or greater.
- Air flow is 25% greater with soybeans compared to corn – therefore soybeans will dry faster than corn – if all other conditions are similar.
- Some hulls will be lost and splits may occur.
- Stirring equipment or continuous flow bin dryer equipment (Shivvers type system) is needed – or else the soybeans will be greatly over dried on the bottom of the bin.

Corn harvest. The following are some general expected drying rates of corn – with normal fall weather. Obviously, the recent cool wet weather will reduce these rates of field dry down.

Expected dry down rates for corn.

- Late October – 2.0 points per week.
- Early November – 1.0 point per week.
- Late November – 0.5 point per week.

Therefore, a lot of corn may only field dry to the low 20s for grain moisture. Natural air drying systems and high temperature corn drying systems will have trouble drying corn to levels we are used to.

However, corn that is 20% moisture (or more) can be stored through the winter months. Corn that is 20% moisture can be expected to stay in condition for about six months – if it is truly aerated to 30 degrees. An [article by Charles Hurburgh](#) further explains winter storage and grain temperatures.