

CROP CONNECTIONS

14 October 2008

Crop Progress and Notes

This harvest season is turning out to be the good, the bad and the ugly both in terms of actual yields and possibly weather conditions. The yield variability I've heard and/or seen in soybeans this year ranges from 20 to 65 bushels per acre. I would guess soybean harvest is 90 to 95 percent complete. Corn harvest was just getting started before the rains today but from what I've heard there might be even more yield variability. Earlier this summer I saw hail and greensnap corn that I estimated at 100 bushel per acre and just this past weekend I helped with a NCGA yield plot that made 246 bushel per acre on some strips.

Due to weather this fall and throughout the growing season the potential for field dry down of corn is greatly diminished. Our best weather conditions for dry down are typically in the month of September and early October. Many of those days were lost because maturity had not been reached. At this early point of corn harvest I'm hearing grain moisture ranging from 16.5 to 23 percent moisture.

How Fast Can Corn Dry Down?

At what speed does corn dry down after reaching maturity? Several factors impact the rate of dry down: weather, hybrid, planting date and ear characteristics. On average, typical seasonal drying rates range from 0.4 to 0.8% moisture loss per day. If the fall months vary from normal in terms of temperature or moisture, the rate of dry down will differ. For example, wet and cool weather will delay drying. We've recorded seasonal dry down rates less than 0.3 % per day. On the other hand, warm dry weather speeds drying rates. Kernels could lose up to 1.0% moisture per day. Considering that, corn dry down this fall is likely on the lower end of the spectrum at approximately 0.3 to 0.5 percent per day.

New Manure Nutrient Manage Research Available

To help producers make the most of Iowa's available manure nutrient resources, ISU Extension recently developed an updated publication, [Using Manure Nutrients for Crop Production - PMR 1003](#). The publication has in-depth discussion on managing manure nutrients for crop production - especially manure nutrient characteristics, similarity/differences to fertilizer nutrients, manure nutrient processing in soils, and management practices that can affect nutrient supply and success as a nutrient resource for growing crops.

Ag Chemical Dealer Update Series, Storm Lake and Lewis, Iowa

The Ag Chemical Dealer Updates deliver the latest crop production recommendations, news and information directly from ISU Extension. Each location features updates on weed, insect, crop disease and soil nutrient management brought to you by ISU experts. Each meeting is also a convenient way to obtain CCA credits as well as recertification for commercial ag pesticide applicators.

Register today at the Ag Chemical Dealer Update link to the right.

Integrated Crop Management Conference, Ames, Iowa

The Integrated Crop Management conference has something to offer everyone involved in crop production and protection in Iowa and the surrounding states. Choose from over 40 different workshops featuring the latest crop production information from experts from around the Midwest. Receive commercial ag pesticide applicator certification continuing education credits.

Register today at the Integrated Crop Management Conference link to the right.

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Serving; Calhoun,
Carroll, Crawford,
Greene, Ida,
Monona and
Sac counties.

Web pages to View:

- [Grain Drying, Handling and Storage](#)
- [ICM News](#)
- [Using Manure Nutrients for Crop Production](#)
- [Integrated Crop Management Conference](#)
- [Ag Chemical Dealer Update Meeting](#)

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