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Crop Update

In the last week there has really been a tremendous change in the corn and soybean crop. Corn is likely in the dent stage. From full dent to maturity typically takes 20 days. Soybeans are reaching maturity and are rapidly senescing. From full seed to full maturity typically takes 14 days.

In general, there is some concern with corn reaching full maturity before a frost. This pushes limits because typical fall frost dates in west central Iowa occurs in the first week of October. According to Roger Elmore and yield prediction simulation; to achieve the best yields, the corn crop needs plenty of sunlight and rainfall as well as average temperatures. Yield predictions or forecasts will provide insights, but are only a framework that can change based on weather.

Re-Traveling Hailed Areas

Since the hail event of August 9, I've been through the hail damaged areas several times. Corn is being salvaged for silage and has been since about August 11. Reports on silage tonnage are varied, but in general they are very low compared to normal silage harvests. Another observation is that the corn is drying down rapidly and there are even fields where the grain has reached maturity.

I've seen and heard reports of ear molds in these damaged fields. Stalk rots/deterioration is common as well, but not surprising since the plant cannibalized itself to fill grain as best it could. Soybean regrowth has occurred somewhat from axils, but this likely won't contribute new flowers or pods.

Ear Quality Study—Your Help is Needed

Drs. Alison Robertson and Gary Munkvold are conducting a study to look at ear quality from hail damaged fields. They would like to have farmers/agronomists collect 25 ears from hail-damaged fields along with production information from each field. In total they are looking for 100 field across the state. If you are interested in participating in this study please email me (lichtma@iastate.edu) and I'll get you more information.

Production information requested;

- Date of hail damage
- Size of hail stones
- Duration of hail storm
- Growth stage when damaged
- Percent damage to the crop
- Corn hybrid
- Whether or not fungicides were used

ICM News Must Read Articles

Here is a link to an [ICM News](#) article that I feel is a must read.

- [Getting Ready for Fall Fertilization](#)
- [Fall Combine Harvest Considerations](#)
- [Risk of Mycotoxins Associated with Hail Damaged Corn](#)
- [A Top Ten List: Preparing for Fall Manure Application](#)