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TO THE POINT

The Longest Harvest

2008 will go down as one of the longest seasons in recent memory. Yields are variable across Southern Iowa. Most producers are pleased with the yield on corn; however, dry down is another issue. Before we start trash talking hybrids, we need to consider the weather conditions those hybrids experienced. We all need to remember why we pick hybrids in the first place. YIELD! Remember to work with your seed professionals on hybrid placement, NOT convenience. Remember, corn does not get better with age. The only thing to improve with time is the price. Please review the chart when storing wet corn for months of storage. The biggest storage mistake is not cooling freshly harvested grain immediately to nighttime temperatures.

Maximum storage time (months) for corn and soybean*							
Corn temperature °F	Moisture Content						
	Corn (top %)		Soybean (bottom%)				
	13%, 11%	14%, 12%	15%, 13%	16%, 14%	17%, 15%	18%, 16%	24% N/A
40	150	61	29.0	15.0	9.4	6.1	1.3
50	84	34	16.0	8.9	5.3	3.4	0.5
60	47	19	9.2	5.0	3.0	1.9	0.3
70	26	11	5.2	2.8	1.7	1.1	0.2
80	15	6	2.9	1.6	0.9	0.9	0.06

*Based on 0.5% maximum dry matter loss—calculated on the basis of USDA research at Iowa State University. Corresponds to one grade number loss; 2-3% points in damaged seeds. Soybean approximated at 2% lower moisture than corn.

Ammonia Time is Now!

Most producers are not worried about the temperature when applying ammonia. I have included the website for finding soil temperatures. This may be useful to decide when the soil is starting to freeze and the window is closing. Where possible, we need to make sure we are doing a good job of sealing not smearing. The 4-inch soil temperature as of today is between 34 to 35 degrees.

More information links:

<http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/NPKnowledge/soiltemphistory.html>

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2008/112108hurburgh.htm>