

## Corn and Grain Sorghum Weekly Update – April 15, 2016

2016 Update No 4

### **Corn and Grain Sorghum Update – Dr. Jason Kelley (Wheat and Feed Grains Specialist)**

Corn planting is starting to wind down across much of Arkansas. An estimated 61% of the corn was planted the end of last week according the Arkansas Agricultural Statistics Service, compared to only 44% last year and 51% for the 5-year average. Some corn was planted over the weekend and continued this week in many areas, so likely we have 75% or more of our corn planted at this time. There is still a lot of debate about replanting some fields with relatively low stands and poor emergence due to crusting issues. The rains on April 11<sup>th</sup> helped soften the soil crust enough and allowed acceptable emergence on fields that would likely have been replanted. Some corn fields are still going to be replanted though if the weather will allow. Rain forecasted for much of the state over the next few days, which may impact replant decisions. Early planted fields have really struggled with the cool weather and rains. Most corn planted in late March is only at the V2 stage or smaller. Grain sorghum planting has been slow with cool temperatures and most are trying to get corn planting completed before planting any grain sorghum. At the end of last week approximately 8% of the grain sorghum acres had been planted compared to 12% last year and 24% for the 5-year average planting.

### **Corn and Grain Sorghum Research Verification – Kevin Lawson (Corn & GS Verification Coordinator)**

The Lincoln County corn verification field had some issues from the heavy rain eroding the beds a couple of weeks ago. Now some of those plants are showing rootless corn syndrome. The field has lost approximately 5,000 plants per acre, but still has enough plants for a stand. Dr. Jason Kelley has an article, [Rootless Corn Syndrome: A Real Problem](#), on the Arkansas Row Crop Blog Site ([www.arkansascrops.com](http://www.arkansascrops.com)) for more information. The rest of the corn verification fields continue to emerge erratically. A timely rain allowed the St Francis field to come on up to a nice stand. Prairie County is coming up in sections, flatter parts of the field are still emerging, while areas of the field with a slope on them have emerged and are at V1. Clay County still hasn't emerged, but is right at the soil surface and should be up in the next few days.

The grain sorghum verification fields are all scheduled to be planted next week depending on the rain.

County	Hybrid	Growth Stage	Heat Units	Comments
Clay	Pioneer 1637YHR	Planted	161	Field still hasn't emerged but should any day. (Scouted April 14)
Lincoln	DKC 66-87 VT2P	V2	324	New plant population is 34,500 plants per acre. (Scouted April 15)
Pope	Pioneer 1319HR	***	***	Field is scheduled to be planted this weekend.
Prairie	Armor 1555PRO2	V1	191	Parts of the field have emerged and growing well, flatter parts of the field is just now emerging. Plant populations next week. (Scouted April 13)
River Valley	Terral REV 23BHR55	Planted	61	Field was planted April 8 at 32,000 seed per acre. (Scouted April 12)
St Francis	Pioneer 2089YHR	V1	249	Plant population for the field is 32,500 plants per acre. (Scouted April 13)

County	Hybrid	Growth Stage	Comments
Jefferson	Armor Maverick	***	Scheduled to be planted next week.
Lawrence	DKS 51-01	***	Scheduled to be planted next week.
White	Pioneer 83P99	***	Scheduled to be planted next week.

#### **Southeast Arkansas Update – Kevin Norton (Ashley County)**

We didn't get much done this week, Monday's (April 11) rain kept us out of the fields most of the week. Approximately 85% of corn acres have been planted. A few thousand of those acres will need to be replanted, when and if weather conditions allow. Many fields close to Bayou Bartholomew have not been planted and still have water on them. These acres will probably be planted to beans when they dry.

#### **Central Arkansas Update – Brett Gordon (White County)**

The majority of the corn acreage in White County has been planted. I would estimate 75 to 80% of corn is now in the ground as of April 14. Some of the fields that have emerged are not uniform. After speaking with a few producers, replants are a possibility on some of their earlier planted fields. Hopefully, some warm weather is in store to get this corn crop off to a good start.

#### **Northeast Arkansas Update – Stewart Runsick (Clay County)**

The earliest planted corn has emerged. A lot of it is yellow and not growing very fast. The corn planted later is experiencing compaction and crusting from the big rain we got and is struggling to emerge. Some producers are trying to rotary hoe it or water it to help. We got a little shower yesterday April 13 and should get another one today April 14. Hopefully that will help. I am hearing about some replants due to the seed rotting. I hope that does not account for a lot of acres. It has been cool again this week.

We need some warmer temperatures. Corn planting is winding down, most are done planting. Most of those who were talking about planting grain sorghum are backing out and switching to beans.

### **River Valley Update – Kevin VanPelt (Conway County)**

The majority of the corn planting in the River Valley is completed and the half inch of rain earlier this week has helped with emergence on most of it despite the cool cloudy weather. The stands look good, even on the fields that took 2 weeks to emerge.

### **Market Update – Scott Stiles (Economics Specialist)**

#### **April USDA Supply/Demand**

The USDA made few changes to the U.S. corn balance sheet:

- Corn for ethanol usage was increased 25 million bushels.
- More than offsetting the increase in ethanol, feed use was reduced 50 million bushels.
- The net change to 2015/16 ending stocks was a 25 million bushel increase to 1.862 billion bushels.
- The 2015 season-average farm price was reduced by 5 cents to an average \$3.55 per bushel. As of April, the projected 2015 PLC payment rate for corn is 15 cents per bushel. Projected 2015 ARC-county payments for corn range from approximately \$43 to \$95 per acre in Arkansas.

U.S. grain sorghum balance sheet:

- Feed usage was reduced by 15 million bushels
- Ethanol usage was increased by 25 million bushels
- Exports were reduced by 10 million bushels. China remains to the top buyer of U.S. sorghum in the current marketing year, accounting for about 89 percent of sales. However, sales to China are currently 20 percent behind the pace a year ago.
- Ending stocks were unchanged from March at 65 million bushels. This is a large increase compared to last year's 18 million bushels.
- The 2015 season-average farm price was reduced by 10 cents to an average \$3.20 per bushel. As of April, the projected 2015 PLC payment rate for sorghum is 75 cents per bushel.

The next USDA supply/demand report (May 10) will incorporate the March 31 *Prospective Plantings* report and provide the first look at U.S. crop balance sheets for 2016. Assuming the USDA will use 93.6 million planted acres for corn, analysts foresee 2016 corn ending stocks in the range of 2.4 to 2.7 billion bushels. U.S. corn ending stocks have not exceeded 2 billion bushels since 2004; the very early days of the ethanol boom.

<b>U.S. Corn Supply and Demand Balance Sheet</b>			
<b>billion bushels</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17 Projected</b>
<b>Beginning Stocks</b>	1.232	1.731	1.862
<b>Production</b>	14.216	13.601	14.373
<b>Planted Acres (mln ac)</b>	90.6	88.0	93.6
<b>Harvested Acres (mln ac)</b>	83.1	80.7	85.6
<b>Yield (bu/ac)</b>	171	168.4	168
<b>Imports</b>	.032	.050	.040
<b>Total Supply</b>	<b>15.479</b>	<b>15.382</b>	<b>16.275</b>
<b>Feed and Residual</b>	5.324	5.250	5.425
<b>Food, Seed, Industrial</b>	6.560	6.621	6.600
<b>Ethanol</b>	5.200	5.250	5.225
<b>Exports</b>	1.864	1.650	1.700
<b>Total Demand</b>	<b>13.748</b>	<b>13.521</b>	<b>13.725</b>
<b>Ending Stocks</b>	<b>1.731</b>	<b>1.862</b>	<b>2.550</b>
<b>Stocks-to-Use %</b>	<b>12.6%</b>	<b>13.8%</b>	<b>18.6%</b>
<b>Low Farm Price (\$/bu.)</b>	\$3.55	\$3.40	\$2.95
<b>High Farm Price (\$/bu.)</b>	\$3.75	\$3.70	\$3.75

Source: USDA.

### Heat Units

Heat units were down this week and closer to the 30 year average. It takes approximately 265 heat units to get to V2. Fields planted March 28 should be getting close to that in South Arkansas, but fields in Northeast Arkansas are just emerging.

	Southeast, AR (Dumas)		Central, AR (Des Arc)		Northeast, AR (Jonesboro)		River Valley (Morrilton)	
	2016	30 Year	2016	30 Year	2016	30 Year	2016	30 Year
April 9	11.5	12.0	8.0	10.0	3.5	9.5	9.0	10.5
April 10	20.0	12.0	18.0	11.0	15.0	10.0	16.5	10.5
April 11	13.0	12.5	12.0	10.5	10.5	10.0	12.0	10.5
April 12	10.0	13.0	7.0	11.0	6.0	10.0	8.5	11.0
April 13	8.5	13.0	8.0	11.5	7.0	10.5	8.0	11.0
April 14	15.5	13.5	14.0	12.0	12.0	10.5	14.5	11.0
April 15	12.0	13.5	11.5	12.0	10.0	10.5	12.5	11.0
<b>Total for Week</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Total Since March 28</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>190</b>

### Twitter

Jason Kelley @AR\_Feedgrains

Kevin Lawson @ar\_cornverify

University of Arkansas Systems Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service Web Pages

Extension Corn Webpage – [www.uaex.edu/corn](http://www.uaex.edu/corn)

Extension Grain Sorghum Webpage – [www.uaex.edu/grain-sorghum](http://www.uaex.edu/grain-sorghum)

Row Crop Verification Webpage – [www.uaex.edu/verification](http://www.uaex.edu/verification)