

## **Corn and Grain Sorghum Weekly Update – April 29, 2016**

2016 Update No 6

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

Corn planting is essentially complete now thanks to the good planting conditions most experienced this week. An estimated 90% of the corn was planted by April 22<sup>nd</sup> according the Arkansas Agricultural Statistics Service, compared to only 77% last year and 78% for the 5-year average. Rains forecasted for today and this weekend will keep producers out of the fields for a few days. Overall corn looks like it is starting to turn the corner and looking better as the soils and temperatures have warmed enough for good growth. Much of the early planted corn is at the V4-V5 growth stage and calls about zinc and sulfur deficiency have been increasing this week. A lot of sidedress nitrogen was applied to early corn this week ahead of the rains. Grain sorghum planting increased this week and as of April 22<sup>nd</sup> an estimated 30% of the grain sorghum acres had been planted compared to 38% last year and 47% for the 5-year average planting.

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

The corn that is up still doesn't look that good to me. Even though we are starting to get warmer weather, I would like to see these clouds go away and let some sun in. The Lincoln, Prairie, River Valley and St Francis fields all received a sidedress application of nitrogen before the rains that came through on April 26 and 27. Rain totals ranged from nothing in the River Valley to 0.5 inches in St Francis County. Hopefully these sidedress applications will turn the corn around. Pigweeds have emerged this week and are growing quickly. Herbicides were recommended on all the fields that are emerged. The Clay County field was replanted on April 25 and the Pope County field was planted on April 23. The average planting date for the 2016 corn verification program is April 5. The average planting date for 2015 was April 16, and the 5 year average is April 10. Out of the last 10 years of corn verification only 2010 (April 4) and 2012 (March 30) had earlier average planting dates.

The White County grain sorghum field was planted on April 23 with an application of metolachlor on April 24. The field didn't get a rain until April 27 to activate the metolachlor. In the meantime, there was a huge flush of pigweeds in this field. The field was getting close to emergence, but luckily the producer was able to get out an application of Gramoxone to take them out. The Jefferson County field got planted on April 28.

County	Hybrid	Growth Stage	Heat Units	Comments
Clay	Pioneer 1637YHR	Planted	84	Field was replanted on April 25 at 34,500 seeds per acre.
Lincoln	DKC 66-87 VT2P	V5	592	Field received 225 pounds of Urea plus 100 pounds of Ammonium Sulfate followed by 2 quarts of atrazine, 1.5 pints of metolachlor and 1 quart of glyphosate. (Scouted April 29)
Pope	Pioneer 1319HR	Planted	72	Field was planted on April 23 at 32,000 seeds per acre. (Scouted April 26)
Prairie	Armor 1555PRO2	V3	427	Final plant population was 32,000 plants per acre. Applied 300 pounds of Urea on April 26 followed by 1 quart of glyphosate plus 1.5 pints of metolachlor. (Scouted April 27)
River Valley	Terral REV 23BHR55	V2	288	Final plant population was 32,000 plants per acre. Recommended fertilizer and herbicide before rain. (Scouted April 26)
St Francis	Pioneer 2089YHR	V4	479	Applied 250 pounds of Urea plus 100 pounds of Ammonium Sulfate. Recommended herbicide application. (Scouted April 27)

County	Hybrid	Growth Stage	Comments
Jefferson	Armor Maverick	Planted	Field was planted on April 28.
Lawrence	DKS 51-01	***	Should be planted soon.
White	Pioneer 83P99	Planted	Field was planted on April 23 and 1.5 pints of metolachlor was applied. A flush of pigweeds came up before the metolachlor could get activated, so 1 quart of Gramoxone was applied on April 28. (Scouted April 27)

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

A lot of progress has been made this week. Replants are done and corn planting is 100% complete. Early planted corn is at 3-5 leaf stage and receiving sidedress fertilizer and herbicides.

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

The rainfall yesterday (April 27) has halted fieldwork. I've heard rainfall reports from farmers ranging from 3 tenths to over an inch. Prior to yesterday's rain, many growers were applying herbicides to earlier planted corn fields. The corn has responded well to the warm sunny weather we have had over the past several days. The majority of grain sorghum has now been planted in the county. We were able to plant the grain sorghum verification field as well as some grain sorghum variety plots.

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

The corn replanted last week is beginning to emerge. Corn planting is pretty much complete now. The early planted corn is near V4 growth stage. Some sidedress N is being applied. Most areas of the County have received timely rainfall and crop looks good.

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

The corn has really responded to the warmer weather we've experienced this week and producers have been able to get their herbicide applications made. The earlier planted fields are far enough along to apply sidedress nitrogen, but everyone is holding off till next week because of the potential for heavy rains that are in the forecast for the coming weekend.

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

The corn market made solid gains of 6 to 12 cents Thursday morning following a very positive USDA *Export Sales* report. Weekly sales of old crop corn reached a marketing year high of just over 85 million bushels. Japan, Mexico and Taiwan were the top buyers during a week that featured sales into 22 different foreign markets. The table below reveals a positive trend in U.S. corn export sales over the past 4 weeks and evidence the U.S. is competitively priced and production problems are a concern in both Brazil and Argentina.

#### **USDA Export Sales**

<b>CORN – 2015/15 (Current) Marketing Year</b>		
<b>Week Ending</b>	<b>Weekly Sales (million bushels)</b>	<b>Weekly Sales Needed To Reach USDA Estimate</b>
April 21	85.059	10.552
April 14	47.350	14.473
April 7	44.713	16.117
March 31	37.211	17.479
March 24	31.123	18.376

Corn futures are also finding support from speculative fund investment that has flowed into all the CBOT grains in recent weeks. From a fundamental standpoint there is very little if any news here in the U.S. to explain the 50+ cent rally in corn that has occurred since early April. The U.S. old crop supply situation is very comfortable with ending stocks projected to be over 1.8 billion bushels at the end of August. The 2016 planting progress has also been running ahead of average. Perhaps fund

#### **September 2016 CBOT Corn Futures**



investors simply viewed the ag sector as undervalued. It's worth noting that soybeans have rallied over \$1.50 since early March and remain above \$10 today. In an acreage bidding war, it could be argued that corn had to follow soybeans higher or risk losing too many acres.

One international market driver that may be behind the rally in corn prices is South American weather. Prior to this week, 20 straight days of rain in Argentina have flooded large portions of both their corn and soybean crop. A large portion of Brazil's safrinha (2<sup>nd</sup> crop) corn has been impacted by high temperatures and dry conditions. It is very possible the USDA could begin to lower corn and soybean production estimates for both countries in the upcoming May 10 supply/demand report.

Regarding the May 10 supply/demand report, USDA is expected to use its March 31 corn planting intentions number of 93.6 million acres in its' initial projections of 2016 production. Combined with a trend yield of 168 bushels per acre, ending stocks for the 2016 marketing year are likely to exceed 2 billion bushels. The market will need to see more weather-related production losses to make new highs if 2016 ending stocks are projected to be that large.

### Heat Units

Warmer temperatures really showed up this week. Heat units for this week were 40 – 50 units over the 30 year average.

	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 23	17.5	16.0	18.0	14.5	16.5	12.0	15.5	12.0
April 24	19.0	16.5	19.0	15.0	18.0	12.5	16.5	12.0
April 25	22.0	16.5	22.0	15.0	20.0	12.5	18.5	12.5
April 26	25.5	17.0	24.5	15.0	22.5	13.0	24.0	13.0
April 27	22.5	17.0	22.5	16.0	21.0	13.0	23.5	13.0
April 28	24.0	17.0	21.0	16.0	19.5	13.5	21.0	13.0
April 29	23.5	18.0	21.0	16.0	19.0	13.5	19.5	14.0
<b>Total for Week</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Total Since March 28</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>362</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)