

Corn and Grain Sorghum Weekly Update – August 19, 2016

2016 Update No 19

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

A stalled weather system has resulted in most of the state receiving rain nearly all week. Rainfall totals vary across the state from as little as 2 inches to more than 10 inches. With nearly constant rain over several days combined with warm temperatures and mature grain, pre-harvest sprouting of grain sorghum is becoming more apparent. Unfortunately, grain sorghum harvest would have likely started this week on early planted acres. The full extent of damage is not known yet, but may be considerable. The wet weather has also delayed corn harvest. Most of the corn still looks like it has good quality grain, but in several areas, stalks are beginning to get weak. We are hopeful that next week will bring warmer and drier conditions so harvest can get started.

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

All of the fields except Clay County have reached R6 or black layer. Harvest is currently being delayed by the recent rains. Some sprouting is occurring in the fields, but so far damage is minor.

Both of the grain sorghum fields were getting close to maturity when the rains started. Both fields have started sprouting in the heads. Some of the sprouting seed is shattering off the plants which will decrease yield. Sugarcane aphids are still at low levels in Jefferson County, but they are on the increase in White County. With the current sprouting problems, aphids will be evaluated next week and compared to potential yield. Control may not be an option if yield potential continues to decrease.

County	Hybrid	Growth Stage	Comments
Clay	Pioneer 1637YHR	R5.8	Irrigation has been terminated and the field is waiting to drydown for harvest.
Lincoln	DKC 66-87 VT2P	R6	Field is waiting on harvest.
Pope	Pioneer 1319HR	--	Field was harvested for silage on July 25.
Prairie	Armor 1555PRO2	R6	Field is waiting on harvest.
River Valley	Terral REV 23BHR55	R6	Field is waiting on harvest.
St Francis	Pioneer 2089YHR	R6	Field is waiting on harvest.

County	Hybrid	Growth Stage	Comments
Jefferson	Armor Maverick	Hard Dough to Mature	Field is sprouting in the head. Waiting on dry weather for harvest.
White	Pioneer 83P99	Hard Dough to Mature	Field is sprouting in the head. Waiting on dry weather for harvest.

Southeast Arkansas Update – Kevin Norton (Ashley County)

Corn is ready to harvest, but rain will not stop long enough to let us harvest. A very small amount was harvested before the rains started.

Central Arkansas Update – Brett Gordon (White County)

Before the rain, corn was harvested last week on a very limited acreage. I have not yet heard any reports on grain yield. We really need some dry weather to hopefully get back to corn harvest next week. Unfortunately, the wet weather has caused the grain sorghum in White County to sprout on the upper third portion of the heads. With more rain predicted in the next few days, yield losses are likely.

Northeast Arkansas Update – Stewart Runsick (Clay County)

We have received 5-7 inches of rainfall since Saturday. Corn and grain sorghum is beginning to sprout in some fields. Just waiting for it to dry out so harvest can begin.

River Valley Update – Kevin VanPelt (Conway County)

The continual rain for the last week has prevented corn from drying down and delayed harvest.

Market Update – Scott Stiles (Instructor, Economics)

On August 12 the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) released its first report of 2016 certified acres. Acreage reported thru August 1 for Arkansas' corn and grain sorghum is shown in the table below. A spreadsheet with 2016 state and county certified acreage information for all crops can be found at this link: [FSA Crop Acreage Data](#)

Arkansas Corn and Sorghum Acreage Reported.

As of August 1, 2016	Planted	Failed	Prevented Planting
Corn (for grain)	731,695	8,224	133,042
Grain Sorghum	41,833	1,576	5,316

source: USDA Farm Service Agency

It is interesting to note that the sum of corn “planted”, “failed” and “prevented planting” approaches 873,000 acres! This far exceeds even the March 31 NASS planting intentions for the state of 790,000

acres. Also note the corn “prevented planting” total of 133,042 acres. Not surprising, the majority of the prevented acres were in Ashley, Chicot, Desha and Phillips counties. These four counties had 68,619 prevented corn acres or 52% of the “prevented planting” total.

In the August 12 *Crop Production* report, NASS projected Arkansas would harvest 735,000 acres of corn and 37,000 acres of grain sorghum. The FSA’s “planted” corn acres are very close to the NASS projection with data collected thru August 1. Additional acres may be added to FSA’s current total. Monthly updates to FSA certified acreage for 2016 will be released on the following dates:

- Sep. 12, 2016
- Oct. 12, 2016
- Nov. 9, 2016
- Dec. 9, 2016
- Jan. 2017 (TBD)
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Market Update:

The September and December 2016 corn futures contracts have been trending higher since the August 12 USDA reports. Both contracts have traded for the most part in a tight 10 cent range since early August. The September contract needs to close above \$3.30 and the December contract above \$3.40 to indicate prices are moving out of the trading range seen in recent weeks. Price upside would seem limited though with stable crop ratings week-to-week and 74% of the U.S. crop rated good/excellent—plus an outlook for record production of over 15 billion bushels.

The overall condition of this year’s crop is historically high and lead to the record U.S. average yield projection last week of 175.1 bushels. As is customary each summer there are scattered reports around the Midwest of “tip back” and other isolated indications the USDA’s yield estimate is too high. Keep in mind this is purely market noise, perhaps from those with a bullish position in the market. The USDA’s estimates of production will dominate market sentiment. The multi-state *ProFarmer* yield tour begins Monday. It will be of particular interest to the grain markets if the tour findings and yield estimates match up with those of USDA.

Twitter

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Row Crop Verification @ar_verification

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

Extension Corn Webpage – www.uaex.edu/corn

Extension Grain Sorghum Webpage – www.uaex.edu/grain-sorghum

Row Crop Verification Webpage – www.uaex.edu/verification

Corn & Grain Sorghum Verification Webpage – www.uaex.edu/cgsrvp