

Corn and Grain Sorghum Weekly Update – May 20, 2016

2016 Update No 9

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

This week I have had lots of calls about uneven corn growth and nutrient deficiencies. Uneven corn growth has been due to many different factors including; drainage differences in the field, soil type differences, soil pH differences, compaction, and nutrient deficiencies, uneven fertilizer applications and it seems the list goes on and on. With the relatively cool and wet spring, corn root growth is likely limited, which further magnifies the initial problems. The relatively small root system also seems to be causing more sulfur and zinc deficiency problems, especially on light textured soils. Grain sorghum has also struggled with the wet and cool weather with several calls about grain sorghum that has turned purple. Some of these calls are weather related and should green up with warmer temperatures, but some likely have glyphosate drift.

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

The Lincoln County field received a pre tassel nitrogen application and the St Francis County is not far behind. Those fields have started rapid growth and are growing well despite the cool temperatures. The Prairie and River Valley fields are growing well, but the cool weather has slowed down growth. Plant populations were taken on the Clay and Pope County fields this week. Both fields are attempting to get out sidedress nitrogen ahead of forecasted rains (May 19 & 20). The Pope County field has a bad weed problem and herbicide was recommended.

The White County field looks better. The paraquat drift can still be seen, but the plants are trying to come out of it. Atrazine was applied earlier this week trying to get an impressive crop of pigweeds. Sidedress nitrogen was recommended ahead of forecasted rains. The Lawrence County field emerged on May 16 and has a plant population of 73,000 plants per acre. There is some bird damage on the upper part of the field. The Jefferson County field still struggles. The plant population this week was 37,000 plants per acre. The stand is uniform so we are going to try and keep it and see what happens. After a good rain we should get a few more up.

County	Hybrid	Growth Stage	Heat Units	Comments
Clay	Pioneer 1637YHR	V3	393	Plant population is 33,000 plants per acre. Recommended 240 lbs of Urea + 50 lbs of Ammonium Sulfate. (Scouted May 19)
Lincoln	DKC 66-87 VT2P	V10	961	Applied 100 lbs of Urea on May 19. (Scouted May 20)
Pope	Pioneer 1319HR	V4	443	Plant population is 31,500 plants per acre. Recommended 3.6 pts of Halex GT + 1 qt of atrazine followed by 175 lbs of Urea + 100 lbs of Ammonium Sulfate. (Scouted May 17)
Prairie	Armor 1555PRO2	V7	792	Applied 1.5 qts of atrazine on May 12. (Scouted May 18)
River Valley	Terral REV 23BHR55	V7	658	Field is growing well. (Scouted May 17)
St Francis	Pioneer 2089YHR	V9	847	Field is growing well. Discuss pre tassel N next week. (Scouted May 18)

County	Hybrid	Growth Stage	Comments
Jefferson	Armor Maverick	V4	Plant population was 37,000 plants per acre. Hopefully a few more plants will come up with a rain. (Scouted May 20)
Lawrence	DeKalb DKS 51-01	V1	Plant population was 73,000 plants per acre. Field emerged on May 16. (Scouted May 19)
White	Pioneer 83P99	V4	Applied 1.1 qts of atrazine on May 15. Recommended 200 lbs of Urea. (Scouted May 18)

Southeast Arkansas Update – Kevin Norton (Ashley County)

Corn is coming on strong. We've missed almost all of the rains predicted for this week. Early plantings are knee high or better, late plantings are coming on strong and receiving sidedress nitrogen fertilizer and herbicide applications. Producers are laying irrigation pipe this week.

Central Arkansas Update – Brett Gordon (White County)

Below average temperatures have slowed down corn growth. Corns planted in low spots in fields are starting to yellow and fall behind in height. We really need some warm temperatures and sunshine to get the crop going again.

Northeast Arkansas Update – Stewart Runsick (Clay County)

It's been a week of cold, wet and cloudy conditions. Nothing is growing very well including the corn. A lot of fields have a wide array of growth patterns from tall corn to short. It goes back to uneven emergence, water standing, different soil textures and temperatures etc. The replant corn is getting sidedressed now. Like usual just need some sunshine.

River Valley Update – Kevin VanPelt (Conway County)

The corn crop has progressed slowly this week with the cool weather and cloudy skies, but still looks good. Most fields are at V7-V8 and should really take off if we get some sunshine next week.

Market Update – Scott Stiles (Economics Specialist)

Following the May 10 USDA reports the corn market has been trading mostly higher. Through Wednesday (5/18) CBOT corn futures had closed higher 5 days in a row and the September 2016 contract settled at its highest level of the year at \$4.02 ¼ . Near the end of day-session trading Wednesday, commodity market focus shifted to indications the Fed may raise interest rates in June. This news provided more fuel for the recent US Dollar rally that began back on May 3. Grains, cotton, and energies all traded lower Thursday.

The export prices for U.S., Brazilian and Argentine corn earlier this week were \$176, \$187 and \$190 per ton respectively. Further strengthening of the U.S. Dollar may shift the balance back in favor of South American corn. However, it's likely only Argentina can make good on corn exports in the near term as Brazil will focus on covering domestic needs until the bulk of its' second crop corn gets in the pipeline in late June/July.



In the meanwhile, USDA indicated Thursday that last week's corn export sales were just short of 58 million bushels for old crop; up from 43.5 million two weeks ago. The top buyer last week was Japan, which has been the second largest market for U.S. corn in the 2015/16 marketing year behind Mexico.

Last Tuesday's USDA supply/demand report seemed to indicate that corn price advances would be limited in the year ahead. The recent rally above the \$4 mark could be viewed as a very favorable price level to advance sales. For the 2016 crop, USDA projected average producer prices for corn to be in the range of \$3.05 to \$3.65 assuming ending stocks slightly above 2.1 billion bushels. However, in recent days the corn market has been focused on strong export demand, lower Brazilian production, the prospect of lower U.S. corn acreage, and slightly higher ethanol demand for corn in 2017.

Even though Monday's USDA *Crop Progress* report showed that 75% of the U.S. corn crop had been planted, there are some key states that are lagging well behind the average pace. These are Indiana, Ohio and Michigan. As of Monday the three states had almost 7.2 million corn acres left to plant (based on March 31 intentions). This would equate to roughly 1.1 billion bushels of corn production. Given the corn planting delays in these states and the strong rally in soybeans, some private forecasters are starting to lower their estimates of 2016 corn acreage to around 92 million acres versus the March 31 *Prospective Plantings* total of 93.6 million.

As mentioned, the corn market is closely watching the weather impact on Brazil's second crop corn. Some of Argentina's corn acreage was impacted by the heavy rains seen there in April. In the May supply/demand report, USDA lowered its forecast of corn production for the two countries by 157 million bushels. The outlook remains dry for much of Brazil's northern corn area and it seems likely that production estimates could be reduced further.

On Wednesday the EPA released its 2017 biofuels proposal. The requirement for conventional biofuels (largely corn-based ethanol) was 14.8 billion gallons, up from 14.5 billion this year. This increase would consume an additional 107 million bushels of corn. Ethanol prices have been trending mostly higher since January and traded up to \$1.627 Wednesday; the highest level since July 2015.

Heat Units

Heat units this week were 40 units below last week and also 40 units below the 30 year average. Lower temperatures have corn growth slowed down. Pre tassel nitrogen should be applied around 1000 heat units. Fields planted on around March 28 should be close to that stage next week.

	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
May 14	15.0	21.5	13.5	20.5	10.0	18.0	12.5	17.5
May 15	14.5	22.0	13.5	20.5	9.5	18.0	12.0	18.0
May 16	13.5	22.5	11.5	21.0	13.5	18.5	11.5	18.5
May 17	21.5	22.5	18.0	21.5	16.0	19.0	18.5	18.5
May 18	12.0	22.5	11.0	21.5	10.5	19.0	10.0	19.0
May 19	17.0	22.5	13.5	21.5	13.5	19.5	11.0	19.0
May 20	21.0	23.5	17.5	22.5	16.0	20.0	17.0	19.5
Total for Week	115	157	99	149	89	132	93	130
Total Since March 28	911	876	818	797	771	698	809	713

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