

Corn and Grain Sorghum Weekly Update – August 2, 2019

2019 Update

Corn and Grain Sorghum Research Verification – Chuck Capps (Corn & GS Verification Coordinator)

Some fields across South Arkansas have had irrigation terminated for a few weeks and are very close to harvest with a little bit of harvest beginning this week. The Prairie County Verification Field reached black layer on Tuesday (7-30). The final irrigation for Jefferson County field was started on Tuesday. Three other fields need anywhere from 1.5 to 0.75 inches of water to finish out to black layer. We are still getting irrigation termination questions, so I have included the following two resources again this week: Dr. Jason Kelley, Extension Agronomist – Wheat and Feed Grains, wrote a newsletter that addresses irrigation termination for Arkansas Row Crops, which can be found at www.arkansascrops.com with direct link <http://www.arkansas-crops.com/2019/07/22/corn-irrigation-terminated/>. Dr. Chris Henry, University of Arkansas Irrigation Specialist, has put together a fact sheet to help predict final irrigation using soil moisture sensors, which can be found at <https://www.uaex.edu/environment-nature/water/Irrigation%20Termination%20Factsheet%20July%202018.pdf>.

I have not found any more Southern rust this week. It has not spread in the White County field or Desha County field.

Table 1.

County	Heat Units	Crop Stage	Crop Notes
Arkansas	2502	R5	This field was receiving its last irrigation most likely on Monday. It needed about 1.5" of water to finish out to black layer.
Chicot	2630	R5	This field is at 60% starch but almost out of soil moisture, so it is being irrigated one last time.
Clay	2574	R5	As of Monday, the field needed 0.75" of water to finish out the year. Therefore, we are going to irrigate across it quickly one last time to finish up.
Desha	2566	R5	This field is around 60% starch, so it needs less than 2" of water and has around an inch of soil available moisture. We will likely have to do a quick irrigation on it as well.
Jefferson	2599	R5	60% starch and was almost out of soil moisture as of Monday afternoon, so irrigation was started for last time on Tuesday.
Lawrence	2560	R5	Very close to Desha County field on needing one more irrigation.
Mississippi	2313	R5	Field is at 30-40% starch and received a good rain on Monday that zeroed out the sensors. The field only needs about 3.5" water to finish and had 1.7" of available soil moisture as of Thursday (8-1).

Monroe	2007	R3/4	The field is progressing along and is ending R3 with some of the older plants already in dough stage.
Prairie	2778	R6	Reached black layer on Tuesday. Field looks good.
White	1990	R4	This field was irrigated over the weekend and is about to pass the peak irrigation needs for the year. The small amount of Southern rust has not progressed in the past week.

Northeast – Stewart Runsick – Clay County Extension Agent/Staff Chair

Clay County received 0.25 to 0.75 inches of rainfall Monday. For most, that will finish the corn crop. Others will need one more irrigation. The majority of the crop is very close to black layer. Southern rust is a concern for the later planted corn. A few fields may need to be sprayed. We have more rain in the forecast over the next few days.

North Central Update – Brett Gordon – Woodruff County Extension Agent

Irrigation has been terminated on earlier planted corn; however, there are several late-planted acres that still need additional irrigations to finish out the crop. Southwestern corn borer trap numbers were very low and the non-Bt corn crop is mature enough to avoid damage from this pest. We still have some time before corn harvest gets in full swing in Woodruff County.

River Valley Update – Kevin Lawson – Faulkner County Extension Agent/Staff Chair

We are getting close to shutting off the water on a few fields, but the majority of fields had a few more weeks. Silage harvest could start next week, Growth stage range from V10 to R5.