

NOVEMBER 2019



WALKING FIELDS

WORLD FORAGE SUPERBOWL

The World Forage Superbowl Finalists were announced at a luncheon on October 2nd at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. The World Forage Superbowl analyzes and ranks the best quality forage samples in eight different categories. Legacy Seeds was well represented with a total of 18 forage samples that were submitted by growers with the majority of those samples in the Alfalfa Haylage category. Much like in the past Legacy Alfalfa helped produce some of the top ranking feed samples. In 2019 Legacy Seeds had alfalfa varieties that placed in the top ten in the **Baleage category**, Egan Family Dairy of Omro, WI ; **Alfalfa Haylage category**, Degrave Farms of Brussels, WI, Egan Family Dairy of Omro, WI and Roaming Acres Dairy of Wausauke, WI ; and **Mixed/Grass Haylage category**, Egan Family Dairy of Omro, WI. There were also five total entries of Legacy Ration Choice Corn Silage into the **Standard Corn Silage category** with Royal Vista Holsteins of Pickett, WI placing as a finalist. Thank you to all who participated in the 2019 World Forage Superbowl and did a tremendous job representing Legacy Seeds. If you would like to participate in the 2020 competition please let your Legacy Dealer or DSM know.

Above is John Egan of Egan Family Farms of Omro, WI with Judd Hodgen DSM.

SOGGY FIELDS & WET GRAIN

2019 CORN HARVEST MOISTURES

Some growers are beginning to harvest high-moisture corn for feed, some are beginning normal corn grain harvest and still others are tired of pacing and waiting for soybeans to become harvestable. No matter which way you look at it corn grain harvest has started in some regions of the trade area. The entire upper Midwest has been experiencing cool temperatures and excessive moisture which will hinder harvest. These conditions will force growers' hand as to harvest decisions. Because of environmental conditions grain will dry down much more slowly than normal. Depending on planting date and heat unit accumulation some corn acres were not able to reach physiological maturity. This will slow the drying process even further. The typical rate of dry down in the field in September and October can be as high as 2.5% per week of normal weather. With excessive moisture, immature crops and below normal temperatures this rate will drop significantly or stop all together in November. There are tools that take historic weather into account when predicting grain moisture at harvest. Iowa State Extension has published a "[Corn Drydown Calculator](#)" to help make harvest decisions easier. Also consider

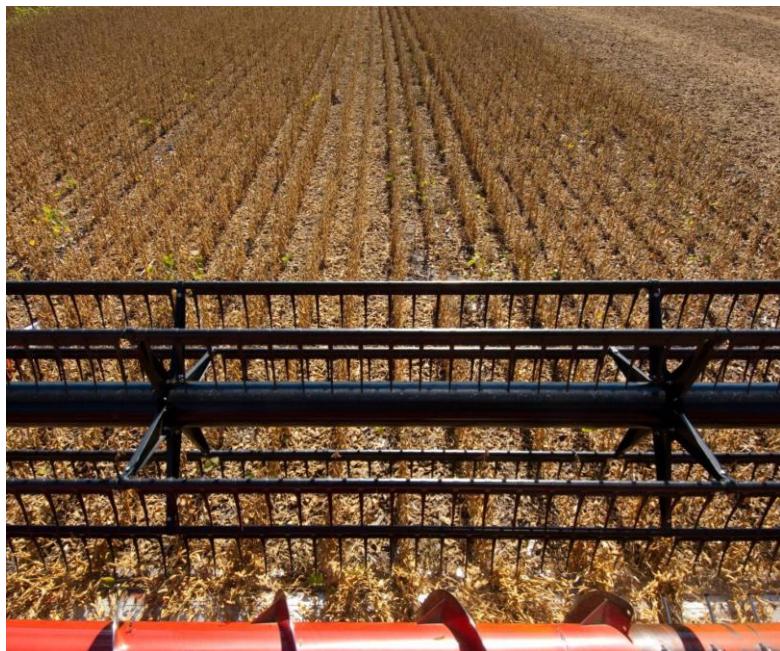
planting date, corn maturity, hybrid characteristics, and stalk moisture when using this calculator. Evaluate drying costs and grain shrink compared to field drying rates and crop standability when making harvest decisions. Even with higher than normal grain moisture most times the yield loss of letting grain stand in the field will quickly outpace the inconvenience and cost of wetter grain. Begin by making proper adjustments to the combine to harvest grain with higher moisture content. Ground speed, deck plate spacing, concave clearance, threshing speed and fan speed should be adjusted to conditions. Once grain is harvested, drying rates should be adjusted as well. "Wet points" such as from 25 to 20% come off much easier than "dry points" from 19 to 14% moisture. High drying temperatures of wet immature grain can damage the sugar and starch content of the grain. It is not recommended to blend wet and low test weight corn with better-quality grain because drying rates, foreign material contents, protein contents and grain durability will differ greatly. Be aware of challenges and continue to work through them in a safe manner. Have a safe and bountiful harvest season.



BOUNCING BEANS

SOYBEAN HARVEST LOSS

"Ideal" harvest conditions this fall may happen as often as "ideal" planting conditions this spring. It is because of this that reducing harvest loss in soybeans is so critical. About 80% of soybean harvest loss happens at the header of the combine. Header shatter can be magnified by fragile pods that have been wet and/or froze multiple times before harvest. Stubble loss, or beans on pods that are below the cutter bar height can be a source of harvest loss. Make adjustments to settings on the combine multiple times per day to ensure that settings match harvest conditions. Make adjustments one at a time and evaluate the improvements. Reel speed should be set to run about 25% faster than ground speed, increasing reel speed slightly can help harvest lodged plants. The reel should be about six to twelve inches ahead of the cutter bar and only be touching the top third of the plants until they are just being cut. Begin harvesting at 15% moisture or at 18% if beans will be stored in a bin equipped for aerating grain. Do not wait to harvest soybeans at their driest point as this will increase shatter loss and pod splitting. Four to five soybeans per square foot of area harvested can add up to one bushel per acre harvest loss.



DOWN IN THE DUMPS

HARVESTING DOWN CORN

Many summer storms and elevated disease pressure in 2019 caused corn to lodge. Many of those acres seemed to make a decent recovery but even those that did not will still need to be harvested. Begin to harvest down corn early, even though grain moistures will not be ideal harvest loss from dry and further degraded stalks will be lessened. Harvesting at a higher grain moisture will also help with head shelling and other harvest loss. Slow things down. Ground speed, gathering chain speed, rotor speed and fan speed should all be reduced. This will improve how the damaged plants feed into the head and help maintain grain quality because of the reduction in material feeding into the machine. In severe cases of lodging it may be necessary to flatten the angle of the head and feeder house to allow material to flow easier. Another adjustment that may help is adjusting the spacing of cleats on the gathering chains to be together or parallel rather than staggered. Patience is most likely the most restricting factor in harvesting down corn especially when time is limit. Making these adjustments will help ease the frustrations and make harvesting lodged corn more efficient.

GETTING SQUEEZED

MANAGING COMPACTION DURING A WET HARVEST

Soil compaction caused by wheel traffic can account for 10-20% yield loss. In fully saturated soils, moisture can act as a lubricant when heavy loads collapse the soil structure. This will cause reduced water infiltration and root development and ultimately crop yields. This fall avoiding traffic on saturated soils may be next to impossible but here are some tips to not allow the 2019 harvest to haunt you in 2020 and beyond. Designate specific travel pathes. Up to 80% of soil compaction is done in the first wheel pass. Localize the damage to one area. Do not run grain carts and combines at full loaded capacity. Harvest around the wettest areas to avoid major soil structure damage and machinery damages. Use appropriate tire sizes and air pressure to handle loads and provide the most surface area in contact with soil. When using tillage to correct compaction ensure soil is dry and fit to be tilled. No-till and minimal tillage help to improve soil structure which can help prevent compaction.

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