



WALKING FIELDS

HARVEST OUTLOOK

The month of September provided some moisture to areas but in most cases, it was too little too late to avoid yield losses from a very dry August. September came in about 150 GDU's above the 30-year average and even with below average temperatures for much of the month finished about 120 GDU's above the 30-year average. Precipitation was slightly above the average for the month. 3.89" of rain fell in Waupaca, Wisconsin in September with the 30-year average being 3.45". The last week of the month proved to be consistently soggy keeping some growers out of soybean fields that were ready for harvest.

With cooler than average temperatures and the first killing frost in the forecast, harvest is underway or looming in most areas. Grain drying conditions for crops in the field does not look promising at the moment but there are still some positives to report. Most crops will have reached physiological maturity before the first frost which dramatically improves the drying ability of the grain. With the increased wet and soggy weather soybean pod integrity will be brought into questions. Pods become weaker as they are wetted and dried repeatedly. Consistent temperatures should help to mitigate this issue but it is worth keeping an eye on when prioritizing harvest order of soybean fields. Soil moisture in many areas is still manageable heading into harvest and fall tillage. A timely harvest and proper soil conditions could lead to some much-needed tillage in some areas that have had some very wet falls in the past few years.

TOO WET? JUST RIGHT?

CORN HARVEST CONSIDERATIONS

The 2020 growing season continues to bring challenges as we head into harvest. Drought stressed corn may have matured more quickly while other areas are still moving towards black layer. Typical weather for this time of the year moves grain from ½ milk line to black layer in about 200 GDU's or about two weeks. Once the grain hits black layer the moisture content is around 30%. 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. 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. 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. Even though harvesting, handling and

storing wet grain can be challenging leaving corn stand too long in the field can lead to dramatic yield loss from stalk rot and lodging. Here is how to evaluate the risk of standing and harvest losses.

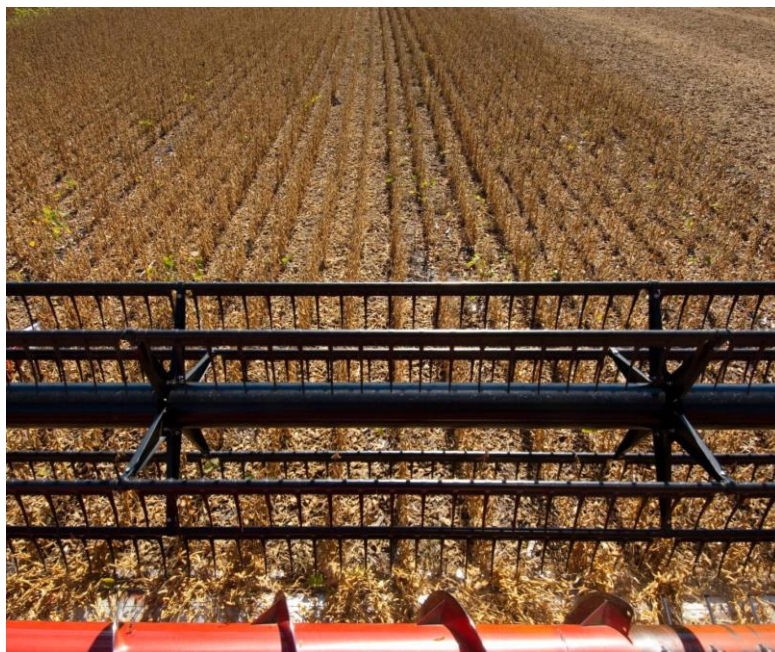
Begin in fields and areas that have experienced a considerable amount of stress. Identify five representative areas of the field and evaluate the standability of a minimum of 20 plants. Evaluate standability by pushing the stalk at the ear to 45 degrees. Along with pushing the stalk, also pinch the stalk at the first internode above the brace roots and at the first internode below the ear. When the plant lodges or the stalk collapses the stalk can be split to identify the cause. Stalk rots are the most common disorders that will be found when splitting a corn stalk. Anthracnose Stalk Rot; is one of the most common stalk rots. Black shiny lesions form on the surface of the stalk and rotting pith causes stalk lodging. Diplodia Stalk Rot; shows weakened and shredded pith with many tiny black dots on the stalk. Fusarium Stalk Rot; shredded pith at lower nodes with brown streaks on stalk. Gibberella Stalk Rot; rotted pith will turn pink/red at



BEAN HARVEST

SOYBEAN HARVEST VARIABILITY

Managing for variability will pay off dramatically in soybean fields this harvest season. As soybean fields continue to mature unevenly, prioritize harvest order based on field conditions. The past harvest seasons have shown that there is likely no premium for 13% or less moisture beans being delivered to an elevator. Delivering soybeans under 10% moisture is sacrificing profit margins from not maximizing harvest weights. That being said, if standability is in question error on the side of harvesting at a higher moisture. This will decrease shatter, splits and harvest loss but could increase dockage for foreign matter or moisture. As field variability is evaluated, the more mature areas are often the lower yielding areas. If standability is not in question, it can be advantageous to wait for higher yielding areas to mature and dry in the field. Be aware that grain could be over dry in this situation and cause increased harvest loss. Managing for this variability will not be done the same on all farms. Evaluate fields, research dockage rates, prioritize on standability and yield potential and make the best choice for your bottom line.



TAR SPOT

WIDE SPREAD DISEASE PRESSURE

Tar spot jumped into the headlines in 2018 in southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois with significant yield loss. This fall Tar Spot has been very widespread from southern Wisconsin all the way north to Shawano and Highway 29 in western Wisconsin. Like many other late-season foliar diseases the severity of impact depends on the maturity of the crop at infection. Most areas were well past the critical point of ½ milk line when Tar Spot moved in this year, at this stage only about 10-12% of the crops' yield is yet to be determined. « Cooler » temperatures and high humidity favor development of Tar Spot. The disease does overwinter in infected residue but it is more likely to have the spores blow into an area during the mid-late grain fill period. There are some fungicides that provide effective control but timing of applications often do not overlap with Tar Spot's infection timing. Growers should be aware of Tar Spot and know that its presence late in the grain fill period is not as detrimental as earlier in the season.

WHEAT SEEDING RATES

WINTER WHEAT SEEDING RATE CONSIDERATIONS

Soybean harvest is underway in some areas of the trade territory. This means that winter wheat seeding will soon follow. As adjustments are made to seeding equipment make sure that proper seeding rates are being targeted. As September comes to a soggy close planting rates will also change. For seeding dates from September 15th to October 1st the ideal seeding range is from 1.3 to 1.75 million seeds per acre which results in 30 to 40 seeds per square foot. As we get later into the fall seeding rates adjust to compensate for decreased fall growth and decreased fall tillering. Seeding dates from October 1st through October 10th the ideal seeding range increases from 1.75 to 2.1 million seeds per acre which results in 40 to 50 seeds per square foot. Proper seeding dates, rates and depth are vital to a successful winter wheat crop.

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