

Expect half the yield from very late corn

RESearch from the University of Illinois indicates that Illinois growers who planted corn or soybeans near the end of June can expect a 50% reduction in crop yield.

A cooler and wetter-than-average spring has left Illinois, Indiana and Iowa furthest behind on planted corn and soybeans. Several other states are lagging behind their normal planting schedules, but by a lesser margin.

In Illinois, corn was 7 inches

high as of June 9, compared to an average of 17 inches by that time in recent years. Emerson Nafziger, U of I crop sciences professor, says cool temperatures and the third wettest January-April since 1895 in Illinois have led to delays that are undercutting potential yields.

"This has been a bad spring by most measures," says Nafziger. "We kept seeing forecasts that looked favor-



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able and then it didn't happen. The chance of having above-average yields has diminished greatly."

Cool temperatures and too much rain have led to delays that are undercutting potential yields. Nafziger's analysis of previous years' corn planting data in Illinois determined that "we can expect 50% of the maximum yield when planting is done around June 15-20."

Those growing soybeans in southern Illinois may get 50% of their maximum yield if they plant no later than June 25-30, he adds. Some growers — in southern Illinois especially — had to replant as wet conditions caused some seed to rot.

Perhaps all is not lost

Despite the poor conditions, Nafziger says it is encouraging that 95% of Illinois corn acres were planted by mid-June. While some acres had to be replanted, high temperatures

should help boost the growth rate of what has survived, he says.

Soybeans are further behind. Only 66% of the soybean crop was in the ground as of June 9, compared to an average 92% planted by this time in recent years. Most growers will not get the yields they expect, but high prices for their crops and crop insurance should see them through, Nafziger notes.

"Even with high costs, the yield needed to cover costs is relatively low when corn is more than \$6 a bushel," he says. "But we're looking at some real disappointment at having so much income potential not realized this year due to weather-related crop problems."

U of I Extension offers advice on crop insurance and crop planting issues, including resources describing final planting dates, preventing provisions relative to crop insurance, options when corn stands are marginal and options when no crop has been planted. Visit www.farmdoc.uiuc.edu/manage/newsletters/fefo08_11/fefo08_11.html.

Source: University of Illinois

Web site offers late-planting info

PRODUCERS facing late-planting decisions have a place to go for help.

"Late Planting and Crop Insurance Decisions" is now available on University of Illinois Extension's Farmdoc Web site.

"The information emphasizes crop insurance decisions related to late planting," says Gary Schnitkey, U of I Extension farm financial



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management specialist.

Information is included on farm-level policies such as Actual Production History, Crop Revenue Coverage, Income Protection and Revenue Assurance, all of which have replant and prevented planting provisions that impact planting decisions.

Group Risk Plans and Group Risk Income Plans do not have

replant or prevented planting provisions.

Resources on the Web site include:

■ **Final planting dates, late planting and prevented planting:**

Describes final planting dates, the late planting period, and prevented planting for Illinois farm-level policies.

■ **Crop insurance/cropping decision for corn with questionable stands and a farm-level crop insurance policy has been**

purchased: describes alternatives in the case of corn with marginal corn populations.

■ **Crop insurance/cropping decisions when no crop has been planted and farm-level crop insurance has been purchased:** describes alternatives when no crop has been planted.

■ **Late-planting evaluator:** a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet for evaluating alternatives.

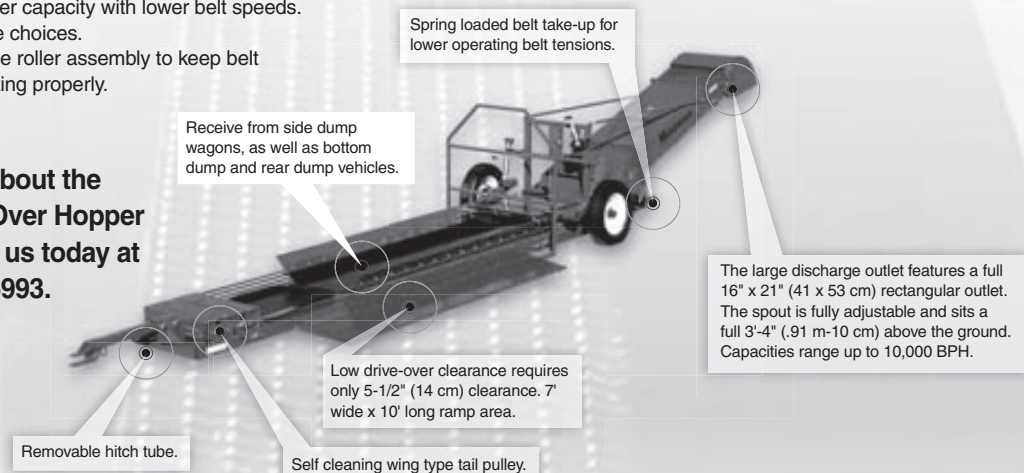
■ **Access the information online at www.farmdoc.uiuc.edu/manage/newsletters/fefo08_11/fefo08_11.html.**

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