

Corn and Grain Sorghum Weekly Update – April 8, 2016

2016 Update No 3

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

Corn planting is going full throttle again in most areas of the state after heavy rains last week. Considerable progress has been made in planting with an estimated 31% of the corn planted by April 3rd according to the Arkansas Agricultural Statistics Service, compared to only 8% the previous week and 20% at this time last year and 36% for the 5-year average planting. Good planting progress has been made this this week, and we have likely hit the 50% complete mark. Many corn fields have been slow to emerge due to still relatively cool soils and heavy rains last week. Unfortunately some earlier planted fields have been replanted or may need to be replanted because of poor stands. Replant decisions are difficult because plant stands are not usually uniform. Plant populations of less than 25-28 thousand plants/acre in irrigated fields should be further evaluated for potential replanting since we are still in the optimum planting period where maximum yield can still be obtained. A small amount of grain sorghum has been planted but plantings will likely increase this coming week if weather allows and soils warm.

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

The Clay and Prairie County fields were planted last week and are still trying to emerge. Heat unit accumulation has been very slow in Northeast Arkansas and Clay County is already behind Prairie County 3 to 4 days even though it was planted a day before. The St Francis County field has some stand problems due to the heavy packing rains that were experienced last week. A plant population count will be done next week. The Lincoln County field is up and has a final plant population of 39,000 plants per acre. There isn't any grain sorghum verification fields planted yet. With more rain predicted next week and cool soil temperatures it was recommended to wait until later next week to plant.

County	Hybrid	Growth Stage	Heat Units	Comments
Clay	Pioneer 1637YHR	Planted	93	Scout for emergence on April 12. (Scouted April 7)
Lincoln	DKC 66-87 VT2P	V1	246	Field has a plant population of 39,000 plants per acre. (Scouted April 8)
Prairie	Armor 1555PRO2	Planted	114	Field should be emerged by April 9. (Scouted April 6)
St Francis	Pioneer 2089YHR	Emerge	178	Field emerged on April 4. The stand is a little spotty due to the heavy rains. A plant population will be taken next week. (Scouted April 6)

Southeast Arkansas Update – Kevin Norton (Ashley County)

Last week's rain stopped planting for the week and didn't resume until Wednesday (April 6) of this week. Unfortunately some of the new plantings will be replants. 60 -70% of corn has been planted as of April 8. We are having a rough start in the Southeast, rains and crusted soils are causing replant and emergence issues.

Central Arkansas Update – Brett Gordon (White County)

After heavy rainfall last week, many areas in White County are becoming dry enough to resume corn planting. The county received approximately 4 to 5 inches of precipitation during last week's storm. I expect the majority of the corn acreage to be planted in the next several days. Some producers may have to re-pull beds after the heavy precipitation. Our corn standardized county hybrid trial will be planted today (April 7). No grain sorghum has been planted to my knowledge.

Northeast Arkansas Update – Stewart Runsick (Clay County)

The earliest planted corn is emerging. The second round of planting needs a few more days of warm weather. It has been cool and wet the past week. Rainfall ranging from 2-3.5 inches last week delayed planting. A few more fields have been planted. A lot of herbicide applications were made ahead of the rain. I would estimate 15-20% of the corn has been planted. Producers should be able to get some more corn in the ground over the weekend, the next chance of rain is Monday.

River Valley Update – Kevin VanPelt (Conway County)

The earlier corn planted the third week of March emerged this week and planting has been in full swing in the River Valley. Some wet areas and high winds have slowed producers down on planting and applying fertilizer, but some have completed all of their corn planting this week and most should be done by this weekend.

Heat Units

Heat units started off lower on April 2 but really jumped the first of the week. Fields planted March 28 are taking about 10 days to emerge in the Southeast and River Valley areas of the state. Fields in the Northeast are still lagging behind and taking much longer to emerge.

	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
April 2	8.0	11.0	7.5	9.0	8.0	8.5	8.5	9.5
April 3	12.0	11.0	11.5	9.5	10.0	8.5	13.5	9.5
April 4	17.5	11.0	15.5	9.5	16.0	9.0	16.5	9.5
April 5	15.5	11.5	10.5	9.5	7.0	9.0	12.5	10.0
April 6	15.5	11.5	11.5	9.5	9.0	9.0	12.0	10.0
April 7	14.5	11.5	13.5	10.0	9.5	9.5	13.0	10.0
April 8	10.0	11.5	9.5	10.0	7.0	9.5	10.5	10.0
Total for Week	93	79	80	67	67	63	87	69
Total Since March 28	156	131	137	111	113	103	141	114

Twitter

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Kevin Lawson @ar_cornverify

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