

Corn and Grain Sorghum Weekly Update – July 8, 2016

2016 Update No 15

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

Warm temperatures continue to push growth and development of both corn and grain sorghum. According to the Arkansas Agriculture Statistics Service report, as of July 3rd, 33% of the corn was in the dough stage, compared to 31% last year and 34% for the 5-year average. Some of the earliest planted corn in South Arkansas will likely be irrigated for the last time next week. A recent article discussing irrigation termination for corn can be found at: www.arkansascrops.com. Southern rust of corn is becoming easier to find and more wide spread with some producers spraying fungicides and others waiting to see if it progresses. Early planted corn may outrun any impact from southern rust, but later plantings need to be monitored closely. According to the National Agriculture Statistics Service June 30th crop acreage report; Arkansas producers planted 750,000 acres of corn this year, an increase of 290,000 from 2015.

Grain sorghum is progressing nicely with an estimated 38% of the crop headed as of July 3rd compared to 48% last year and 42% for the 5-year average. According to the June 30th crop report, Arkansas producers only planted 40,000 acres of grain sorghum. This is a 410,000 acre reduction from 2015. The drastic decline in acres was driven by the threat of sugarcane aphids and reduced value for grain compared to other crops. Currently sugarcane aphid numbers are increasing in grain sorghum and some spraying is occurring for control. Aphid numbers are still variable from field to field, but likely can be found statewide in grain sorghum now.

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

The fields in Lincoln, Prairie and St Francis have entered the dent stage (R5). The field in the River Valley is not far behind and should be R5 early next week. The Pope County field is in R3 and should be R5 in a couple of weeks. This field will be silage so it will be harvested at that time. Pollination was not great on this field due to the hot weather. The Clay County field is just now pollinating. Southern rust is present in all the fields except Clay and Pope. The field in Prairie County has the worse incidence of southern rust. We will scout the field again Monday to see how much it has moved and make a decision on a fungicide.

Both the White and Jefferson County grain sorghum fields are in full boot and look great. No aphids have been found yet. We will start scouting for midge early next week.

County	Hybrid	Growth Stage	Heat Units	Comments
Clay	Pioneer 1637YHR	R1	1669	Field received an irrigation on July 1. Recommended irrigation on July 11. (Scouted July 7)
Lincoln	DKC 66-87 VT2P	R5.2	2331	Field received an irrigation on July 1. Recommended irrigation on July 8. (Scouted July 8)
Pope	Pioneer 1319HR	R3	1740	Field received an irrigation on July 1. Recommended irrigation on July 8. (Scouted July 5)
Prairie	Armor 1555PRO2	R5	2135	Field received an irrigation on June 30. Recommended irrigation on July 7. Will scout again next week for southern rust movement. (Scouted July 6)
River Valley	Terral REV 23BHR55	R4	1942	Field received an irrigation on July 5. Recommended irrigation on July 10. (Scouted July 5)
St Francis	Pioneer 2089YHR	R5.1	2178	Pivot continues to run without stopping. Southern rust at low levels. (Scouted July 6)

County	Hybrid	Growth Stage	Comments
Jefferson	Armor Maverick	Boot	Field is in full boot and should be heading next week. Will scout for midge next week. (Scouted July 8)
White	Pioneer 83P99	Boot	Field is in full boot and should be heading next week. Will scout for midge next week. (Scouted July 6)

Southeast Arkansas Update – Kevin Norton (Ashley County)

Early corn has progressed nicely, it's at 25%-40% starch. About one more watering and we'll be done. Later plantings and replants are approaching, or at brown silk. Southern rust is in every field I look at, still at low levels and not progressing in the field. Early corn should outrun the rust. I caught 4 corn borer moths this week in traps.

Central Arkansas Update – Brett Gordon (White County)

Rain events over the holiday weekend have slowed the urgency for irrigation to the corn crop in the southern part of the county. The corn that I have checked is at the milk to dough stage (R3-R4). What little grain sorghum planted in the county will fully headed by next week. I have found little to no sign of sugarcane aphid so far. Midge scouting will begin next week.

Northeast Arkansas Update – Stewart Runsick (Clay County)

Corn growth stages range from tasseling to R3. Southern rust has been reported in Counties to the south. We probably have it but not easy to find. Corn borer moth catches remain low. Grain sorghum is heading. Have not been able to find any white sugarcane aphids yet. Yellow aphids are present. Rainfall has been scattered across the area and irrigation is still on schedule.

River Valley Update – Kevin VanPelt (Conway County)

Parts of the River Valley received significant rainfall last week, but producers are back irrigating this week. Most of the fields have started to dent and very little southern rust is showing at this point.

Heat Units

Heat unit accumulation was high this week compared to the 30 year average. This is moving corn along at a good rate. Fields planted around March 28 should be at full dent.

	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
July 2	30.0	28.5	30.5	29.0	28.5	27.5	30.5	27.5
July 3	31.0	28.5	31.0	29.0	29.5	27.5	29.5	27.5
July 4	32.5	28.5	32.0	29.0	32.5	27.5	28.0	27.5
July 5	31.0	28.5	31.5	29.0	31.0	27.5	29.5	27.5
July 6	32.0	28.5	32.0	29.0	33.0	27.5	30.5	27.5
July 7	31.5	28.5	30.5	29.5	32.5	28.0	30.5	27.5
July 8	31.5	28.5	30.5	29.5	30.0	28.0	30.0	27.5
Total for Week	220	200	218	204	217	194	209	193
Total Since March 28	2,304	2,186	2,196	2,124	2,129	1,933	2,133	1,933

Twitter

Jason Kelley @AR_Feedgrains

Kevin Lawson @ar_cornverify

Row Crop Verification @ar_verification

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

Corn & Grain Sorghum Verification Webpage – www.uaex.edu/cgsrvp