

Corn and Grain Sorghum Weekly Update – June 3, 2016

2016 Update No 11

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

Warm, humid, and rainy weather continues this week as a low pressure weather system has been slow to clear the state. Conditions have been ideal for corn and grain sorghum growth with temperatures in the 80's for highs and around 70 at night. Most areas have gotten ample or excess rainfall this week, so producers are not currently irrigating. The wet weather however has made it difficult for many producers to get their pre-tassel nitrogen applied. The timing of the pre-tassel nitrogen application is important and in general earlier is better, but benefits can still be obtained as late as brown silk. It is better to wait a few days for ground conditions to improve than to push urea applications on muddy soils. Dry weather is forecast for next week which should allow for better soil conditions to apply the pre-tassel urea applications and corn will still have time to benefit from the nitrogen. The earliest corn in the state is now beginning to tassel. Grain sorghum growth has been slow this year, but the recent warm weather has really boosted growth.

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

The Lincoln county field is growing well and is about 5 – 7 days from tassel. Both the Lincoln and St Francis fields are using about 0.3 inches of water a day so these rains are saving one irrigation, but won't last long. The Lincoln field is scheduled for an irrigation on June 8 and St Francis on June 4 if it doesn't rain anymore. The St Francis field is ready for a pre-tassel application of nitrogen. The Prairie and River Valley fields received a pre tassel application of nitrogen on May 31 in anticipation of the good rain chances this week. The Pope county field really took off this week as it started taking up the sidedress nitrogen. Irrigation will start next week if no more rain. The Clay county field is still not growing well. It received a herbicide application this week, and hopefully the sidedress nitrogen will kick it off and get it growing next week.

The White county grain sorghum field is having a tough time growing through all of these heavy rains. The field could use a little dry weather and sunshine. The Lawrence county field is still struggling through a herbicide drift. We should know in the next week the fate of this field. The Jefferson county field has really responded to the warmer temperatures and is jumping. The scheduled herbicide application for last week didn't get out due to rain, so we have decided to add Huskie to the atrazine application in hopes of getting some bigger pigweeds and morningglories.

County	Hybrid	Growth Stage	Heat Units	Comments
Clay	Pioneer 1637YHR	V6	703	Field received 1.5 qts of atrazine plus 3.6 pts of Halex GT on June 2. (Scouted June 2)
Lincoln	DKC 66-87 VT2P	V16	1311	Irrigate again on June 8 if no rain. (Scouted June 3)
Pope	Pioneer 1319HR	V7	747	Field is taking in sidedress fertilizer and starting rapid growth. Herbicide did a good job. Irrigation will start next week if no more rain. (Scouted May 31)
Prairie	Armor 1555PRO2	V12	1116	Field received 100 lbs of Urea on May 31. Recommended irrigation on June 6 if no more rain. (Scouted June 1)
River Valley	Terral REV 23BHR55	V12	959	Recommended a pre tassel application of 100 lbs of Urea then start irrigation. (Scouted May 31)
St Francis	Pioneer 2089YHR	V14	1176	Recommended 100 lbs of Urea and irrigate on June 4 if no rain. (Scouted June 1)

County	Hybrid	Growth Stage	Comments
Jefferson	Armor Maverick	V9	Field is growing well. Recommended 1.5 qts atrazine plus 15 oz Huskie followed by 250 lbs of Urea. (Scouted June 3)
Lawrence	DeKalb DKS 51-01	V6	Field still has some kind of herbicide drift. Yield in this field is greatly reduced. (Scouted June 2)
White	Pioneer 83P99	V8	Field is suffering a little from the heavy rains over the past few days but should grow out of it. (Scouted June 2)

Southeast Arkansas Update – Kevin Norton (Ashley County)

Earliest fields are beginning to tassel. Most of the corn is V10 to V12, and got the pre-tassel shot of fertilizer earlier this week. No corn borers caught so far this season. No irrigations needed this week thanks to two rain events. Unfortunately, some wind came with the rain and have some fields with green snap.

Central Arkansas Update – Brett Gordon (White County)

Wet weather has been the story this week. No field work or irrigation has taken place. We have received several inches of rain this week with even more in the forecast. Hopefully there won't be heavy wind associated with upcoming storm systems. This will likely be a year when pre-tassel N applications will pay off.

Northeast Arkansas Update – Stewart Runsick (Clay County)

The corn is responding to the warm temperatures with rapid growth. A lot of the unevenness observed earlier is disappearing. Irrigation has not been needed for the most part as we have received rainfall almost daily it seems. The corn is still in the vegetative stages and ways for tasseling.

River Valley Update – Kevin VanPelt (Conway County)

The earliest planted corn in the River Valley has started to tassel, and producers that apply nitrogen at pre-tassel are getting it applied now. With the corn reaching the stage where it's taking up the most water, some producers have started to irrigate and not wait on the rain that's forecasted for the next couple of days.

Market Update – Scott Stiles (Instructor, Economics)

Corn futures continue an impressive rally this week with CBOT September futures now trading at the highest level since July 2015. New crop basis on the Mississippi and Arkansas rivers this week is generally in the range of 5 cents over to even with September futures. As of Thursday (6/2), bids for August/September delivery were in the \$4.18 to \$4.23 range. This is well above USDA's May 10 projected price range of \$3.05 to \$3.65 for the 2016 crop.

September 2016 Corn Futures, weekly chart



The market is finding support from strong export sales in recent weeks. In the May 10 supply/demand report, USDA projected 2015/16 corn exports at 1.725 billion bushels. In the remaining 14 weeks of the 2015 marketing year, weekly sales need to average 5.6 million bushels per week to reach USDA's projection. Export sales over the previous 5 weeks have averaged 54.2 million bushels. Given the strength seen in exports it is certainly possible the USDA could increase its' export estimate in upcoming monthly reports. The next USDA WASDE report is June 10.

Private estimates of Brazil's corn production and exports continue to get smaller. One private firm released a production estimate of 74.9 million tons this week. The current USDA production estimate for Brazil is 81 million tons. The Brazil cereals exporters association lowered their estimate for 2016 corn exports to 23 million tons from 30 million tons in April.

In recent weeks some key states in the eastern Cornbelt have lagged well behind the 5-year average planting pace. Weather over the past two weeks have allowed growers in Indiana, Ohio and Michigan to catch up and planting delays are of little concern to the market now. Overall, the U.S. corn crop was rated 72% "good to excellent" in Tuesday's release of the NASS *Crop Progress* report. Earlier this week NOAA released updated weather forecasts for June that indicated a developing area of "below normal precipitation" centered over eastern Kentucky and southern Illinois and Indiana. With old crop stocks likely to get smaller due to strong export demand and key areas of the eastern Cornbelt expected to see net drying in June, corn futures should find seasonal support over the next 30 days.

Heat Units

Heat units were ahead of the 30 year average this week.

	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
May 28	25.5	25.0	25.5	24.5	25.5	22.0	25.0	22.0
May 29	26.5	25.5	26.5	24.5	26.0	22.5	26.0	22.0
May 30	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.0	26.5	23.0	21.5	22.0
May 31	27.5	25.5	24.5	25.5	25.0	23.0	23.0	22.5
June 1	28.5	26.0	26.0	25.5	27.0	23.0	23.5	23.0
June 2	26.5	26.0	26.0	25.5	26.0	23.5	25.0	23.0
June 3	25.0	26.0	26.0	26.0	24.0	24.0	23.0	23.5
Total for Week	185	180	180	177	180	161	167	158
Total Since March 28	1,080	1,405	982	1,314	923	1,166	962	1,173

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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