

Independent
Community Bankers
of Minnesota

Always with you. Always for you.

AgLink

Your source for agricultural and rural topics
affecting community banks in Minnesota

Planting Season Ready to Begin

Like the start of a big race, farmers in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa are likely to begin full-scale field work next week, weather permitting.

Now that April 11 has arrived, (which is the earliest corn planting date allowed by the USDA's Risk Management Agency, in order to maintain full crop insurance replant coverage), producers will have full crop insurance coverage for the 2016 corn crop. Any corn that was planted prior to that date is not eligible for replant coverage. However, if the crop is damaged by frost, heavy rain, or hail during the growing season, the crop could still be insured with other crop insurance coverage. The earliest planting date for soybeans in Minnesota and Iowa is April 21.

Soil conditions this Spring have been described as "fit for corn planting" by farm operators and agronomists across southern and western Minnesota. However, cool soil temperatures have been a concern. Due to manageable amounts of topsoil moisture in most parts of the region, producers should be able to proceed with tillage and planting, without dealing with major wet areas of fields. Some producers have already seeded small grain and alfalfa crops, and have made applications of nitrogen fertilizer and livestock manure.

Soil temperatures have remained cooler than desirable for the start of corn planting in the Upper Midwest, but soil temperatures are expected to increase rapidly in the coming days. At the University of Minnesota's Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC) at Waseca, the average soil temperature from April 1-8 averaged 41.4 degrees at the 4-inch level, and just 42.1 degrees at the 2-inch level. These soil temperatures are slightly below the long-term average for early April in Waseca and are also slightly below the soil temperatures of early April in 2015. A year ago, soil

Kent Thiesse

Farm Analyst, Vice President

MinnStar Bank, NA

Lake Crystal, MN

kent.thiesse@minnstarbank.com

(507) 381-7960

ICBM QUICK LINKS

[ICBM Home](#)

[Complimentary Webinars](#)

ICBM hosts a number of webinars each year and makes them available to members on demand.

[Education Catalog](#)

Find informatoin on all of ICBM's education offerings here.

[More About ICBM](#)

Learn more about your association.

[Bank Directory](#)

Find general information on any of our bank members. Available to members only.

[B2B Directory](#)

Public listing of every ICBM Associate Member. Searchable by company, city, and business category.

[Bank Locator](#)

Get a map and directions to any one of our member banks or

temperatures started warming up in mid-April and remained at near-ideal levels for the Spring planting season.

Research shows that 50 percent corn emergence will occur in 20 days at an average soil temperature of 50 degrees, which is reduced to only 10 days with an average soil temperature of 60 degrees. In 2015, most corn germinated and emerged in about two weeks.

However in 2014, some early-planted corn took 30-40 days to emerge, due to very cool soil conditions. Most agronomists are encouraging producers to be patient with the initiation of corn planting this year. There is no need to be in a hurry or to plant corn before soil conditions are ready. There is an increased likelihood of potential frost damage when corn is planted in mid-April. However, most producers are willing to take that risk, given the extra yield potential of early-planted corn.

Most portions of southern Minnesota and northern Iowa are in reasonably good shape for stored soil moisture as we head into the 2016 growing season. The U of M's SROC at Waseca received over 8.5 inches of precipitation in the late Fall and early Winter of 2015, and has received some additional precipitation this Spring. Conditions are a bit drier in southwest Minnesota. Some portions of west central and northwest Minnesota, as well as the eastern Dakotas, received much less precipitation in late 2015 and early 2016, and have more limited amounts of stored-soil moisture. If the subsoil moisture remains less than normal in these areas, it could become a concern later in the growing season, especially during any extended dry weather patterns.

2016 is setting up to be the second year in a row of an early start to Spring fieldwork in southern Minnesota. Early corn planting in the Upper Midwest is usually one of the key factors to achieving optimum corn yields in a given year. But how early is too early? University of Minnesota and private seed company research seems to indicate that the ideal planting date for corn in southern Minnesota is typically from April 15 to May 7. However, the ideal planting date for corn varies somewhat from year to year, depending on soil temperatures and soil conditions.

Producers in many portions of the region achieved near optimum corn and soybean planting dates and conditions in 2015, but struggled with timely planting in both 2013 and 2014, due to

branches.

[ATM Locator](#)

Find an ATM located on the In Balance® Network.

Like AgLink?

See what else we publish

[Learn More](#)

persistent wet soil conditions. The result was record corn and soybean yields in many portions of the region in 2015 and below-average crop yields in many areas during 2013 and 2014.

Unless conditions turn very wet in the next couple of weeks, a large majority of corn in Minnesota could be planted before the end of April again this year, similar to 2015. Historically, corn that is planted early usually leads to higher-than-normal yields. In fact, in five of the seven years that 50 percent or more of the state's corn acres have been planted in April, Minnesota set a record corn yield.

Last year, Minnesota had a record corn yield of 188 bushels per acre, surpassing the previous record of 177 bushels per acre set in 2010. Even in the drought year of 2012, Minnesota had the highest statewide corn yield in the Midwest at 165 bushels per acre. In all three years, a majority of the state's corn crop was planted by the end of April.

2014 and 2015 ARC-CO Payment Calculation Options

Farm operators who had their 2014 ARC-CO payments negatively affected by the choice of their FSA administrative county, or potentially may have their 2015 ARC-CO payments impacted by their administrative county choice, have until April 15 to request the FSA to calculate their 2014 or 2015 ARC-CO payments on the basis of the physical location of the crop base acres in each FSA farm unit.

This ARC-CO payment adjustment can amount to several thousand of dollars for some producers. They must make the request on FSA Form CCC-861-A, which is available through local FSA offices.

Please refer to the [information sheet](#) for more details.

For more information, contact Kent Thiesse, Farm Management Analyst and Vice President, MinnStar Bank, Lake Crystal, MN. Thiesse is at kent.thiesse@minnstarbank.com or 507-381-7960.

Manage your ICBM eNewsletter Subscriptions

Want to subscribe or unsubscribe to an eNewsletter? Click on the Manage button to the right to update your preferences.

[Manage](#)

Subscribe/Unsubscribe