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## Crop Conditions Mixed Across Region

The Spring of 2016 has been a battle for some upper Midwest crop producers, as they have tried to get their corn and soybeans planted on a timely basis.

Favorable weather in late May and early June allowed significant planting progress in various regions of the Corn Belt.

However, a significant amount of soybeans need to be planted in southwest Minnesota, northwest Iowa, southeast South Dakota, and in portions of the eastern Corn Belt and southeastern United States. Heavy rains over in the past couple of weeks have caused further planting delays in these regions.

Many areas of Minnesota received significant rainfall during late May, with certain locations receiving 2-4 inches or more during that period. The heavy precipitation resulted in standing water in numerous fields. Hail damage also occurred in certain areas. Farm operators have been monitoring the situation and evaluating plant populations, in order to determine how much replanting will be necessary once fields dry out.

The rainfall has been a welcome sign in certain areas of the Upper Midwest, which had been fairly dry throughout most of Spring. The expected warmer temperatures over the next couple of weeks, together with adequate soil moisture should lead to improved growing conditions.

Total rainfall amounts across Minnesota during the month of May were quite variable. The University of Minnesota's Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC) in Waseca recorded only 3.73 inches of rainfall during May, with the largest rainfall event being less than one inch. However many other areas of southwest, south-central, and central Minnesota received much higher rainfall totals during May, with many locations witnessing 2-3 inches of rainfall in a 24-hour period.

Other May precipitation totals in Minnesota include: 7.29 inches in Hutchinson; 6.9 inches in Worthington; and about 5.5 inches in both Lakefield and Lamberton.

As of May 31, a total of 367 growing degree units (GDUs) had been

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accumulated at the U of M's SROC in Waseca, which is slightly above normal. The GDU accumulation of 341 at a U of M research facility in Lamberton is close to normal as well. Much of the early-planted corn in the Upper Midwest has lagged behind normal development due to the frost damage in Mid-May, which was followed by cooler temperatures. The good news is that the GDU accumulation should improve rapidly in the coming weeks with the warmer weather.

Based on the May 29 USDA Crop Progress Report, 99 percent of both Minnesota and Iowa's corn was planted, compared to a five-year (2011-2015) average of 92 percent in Minnesota and 96 percent in Iowa.

Nationally, 94 percent of corn was planted by May 29, which is slightly above the five-year average. Seventy-eight percent of the corn in the U.S. emerged by May 29, which is 4 percent ahead of normal. Nationwide, 72 percent of the corn crop was rated "good" to "excellent," with only 4 percent rated in poor condition.

The May 29 USDA report shows 95 percent of soybeans have been planted in Minnesota, which was well ahead of the five-year average of 70 percent. Iowa had 88 percent of intended soybeans planted by May 25, compared to a five-year average of 78 percent. The 2016 soybean planting progress is actually ahead of 2015 planting progress in both states. Seventy-three percent of the U.S. soybean crop was planted by May 29, which is slightly above the five-year average of 66 percent.

The final planting date for corn (in order to receive full crop insurance coverage) in the southern two-thirds of Minnesota and the entire State of Iowa, was May 31. The late planting period for corn is June 1-25, with a reduction of one percent in insurance coverage for each day that corn planting is delayed past May 31. For soybeans, the final planting date is June 10 in Minnesota and June 15 in Iowa, with the final planting date extending for 25 days until July 5 in Minnesota and July 10 in Iowa. For crops planted after the final dates of the late planting period, crop insurance coverage is set at a maximum of 60 percent of the original insurance guarantee, which is the same as prevented-planting insurance coverage.

Minnesota and Iowa producers facing prevented-planting or replanting situations, should contact their crop insurance agent for more details on prevented-planting and replant options with various crop insurance policies. There are also some good fact sheets available on the USDA Risk Management Agency [website](#).

Even though parts of southwest Minnesota, northwest Iowa, and southeast South Dakota have been dealing with delayed planting and slow, early season crop growth, other primary corn and soybean production areas have had much more favorable early season conditions.

The overall condition of the U.S. corn and soybean crop at the end of May appears to be in fairly good condition and warmer temperatures

in the next couple of weeks should greatly improve conditions in the Upper Midwest.

For more information, contact Kent Thiesse, Farm Management Analyst at: [kent.thiesse@minnstarbank.com](mailto:kent.thiesse@minnstarbank.com) or 507-726-2137.

## 2016 Ag Conference

Join ICBM for this year's Ag Conference in Austin, MN.

Bankers will learn from ag industry experts and participate in discussions on critical ag issues and how they affect the financial industry.

The event will be held July 19-20. Registration and program information is available [here](#).

Questions? Contact Patti Coles, ICBM Meeting and Event Planner at [pcoles@icbm.org](mailto:pcoles@icbm.org) or 651-789-3987.

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