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Some Farmers Facing Replant and Nitrogen Decisions

Following heavy rain and severe storms in many areas of the Upper Midwest from June 9-15, many farmers are now facing the difficult decision of whether to replant crops.

Several locations in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa received heavy rainfall, which lead to standing water and drown-out damage in fields. There was also hail damage in some areas.

Most producers will not likely replant corn this late, except for livestock producers, who can utilize the grain as silage or high moisture corn. Based on research, corn planted in southern Minnesota during June 5-10 has only about 50-60 percent of expected yield potential, compared to corn planted in late April to early May. Corn planted later in June has even less yield potential. Soybean yield potential is also reduced with planting after June 1, but not as severely as corn.

Early varieties of soybeans that are planted in mid June in southern Minnesota have a realistic yield expectation of 30-40 bushels per acre, compared to normal yields of 50 bushels per acre or higher. By late June or early July, soybean yield expectations drop to 20-30 bushels per acre. The yield potential of late-planted soybeans is highly variable and is very dependent on favorable weather conditions in August and early September, as well as having a later-than-normal, first-frost date. It is best to consult with an agronomist or seed representative before finalizing crop-replant decisions.

Research has shown that corn stands can be reduced up to 50 percent with only a 20 percent reduction in yield potential, provided that the stand reductions are fairly uniform. Similarly, soybean stands can be reduced by up to one-third, with a yield-loss potential of 10 percent or less. It should be noted that there is a lot of variation in these results in terms of actual field conditions, due to gaps between plants in rows and the health of the remaining plants in a field. Unfortunately, drown-out damage usually results in a total loss for affected portions of fields.

Another factor affecting replant decisions is Federal Crop Insurance policies, which allow producers to obtain some compensation for

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replanting, following crop losses from heavy rains, hail, or other natural causes. To qualify for replant compensation, farmers must have a loss area of at least 20 acres, or 20 percent of the total acres in an insured farm unit, whichever is less. The crop insurance replant provision can only be exercised once on the same acreage. Some farmers may have already used the replant option following poor emergence in May and thus cannot use the replant provision again in June, following the excessive rainfall.

A majority of farmers in the Upper Midwest insure their corn and soybeans with a Federal Crop Insurance policy utilizing enterprise units, which group all acres of a given crop in a county together for calculating potential crop loss and insurance-indemnity payments.

By comparison, a crop insurance policy with optional units, insures crops down to individual sections within a township. The reason more farmers choose "enterprise units" is to get higher insurance coverage levels at a lower premium cost. However, many times producers fare much better with optional units when dealing with more localized crop losses due to heavy rain or hail.

Crop producers in the Upper Midwest facing either prevented-planting or crop-replant situations should contact their crop insurance agent for more details on prevented-planting and replant options with various crop insurance policies.

The USDA Risk Management Agency has some very good crop insurance information and fact sheets available on the agency's [website](#).

Another concern that is developing in some areas, as a result of excessive rainfall, is the loss of available nitrogen for the 2016 corn crop. A large amount of nitrogen fertilizer was applied last Fall or early this Spring, prior to corn planting. The very warm temperatures early this Spring likely caused a lot of nitrogen to convert to nitrate form much earlier than when nitrogen is needed by corn crops.

Once in the nitrate form, soil-nitrogen losses increase substantially during heavy rainfall events early in the growing season. Such has occurred in recent weeks. Some growers may need to consider supplemental nitrogen applications in order to maintain normal crop development.

Even though parts of southern Minnesota, eastern Iowa, and southeast South Dakota have been dealing with delayed planting and excessive rainfall, other primary corn and soybean production areas have had much more favorable growing conditions. As of mid-June, a large majority of the U.S. corn and soybean crop is rated in good-to-excellent condition. Long-range weather forecasts for the next couple of weeks across the Upper Midwest call for warmer temperatures, together with a bit drier weather pattern, which should greatly improve crop growing conditions in many of the areas that have been facing challenges.

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

Sign Up for Farmfest

Help ICBM raise the visibility of community banks in the agriculture sector by volunteering at ICBM's Farmfest booth. Members will promote independent community banks as ag lenders.

Here are the open slots:



Tuesday, August 2
8 to 11 a.m.
2 to 5 p.m.

Wednesday, August 3
8 to 11 a.m.
11 a.m. to 2 p.m. One opening left
2 to 4 p.m.

Thursday, August 4
8 a.m. to noon
Noon to 4 p.m.
4 p.m. Take booth down

Contact Kathy Burton at kburton@icbm.org to sign up for a day and time slot. Visit the [Farmfest website](#) for more information about the event.

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 or 651-789-3987.

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