

Southwest of Storm Lake

Crop Conditions for 6-18-13

Past Weeks Rainfall	Continuing rain over the past weekend but our SW district rec'd less than other areas
Soil Moisture	Adequate to surplus – water is running out of some hillsides but our SW district is more fortunate than other area
Temperature	Warming up finally! Temps are forecast to be in the lower to upper 80's, night-time temps approaching 70.
Crop Progress	3 weeks behind normal

Corn

Crop Stage US corn crop is 92% emerged. USDA is no longer tracking % planted. Iowa rated 50% in good to excellent condition.

Yield Potential Yield potential is below normal. Delayed planting on too many acres. Early planted corn is starting to take off.

Soybeans

Crop Stage Iowa is 77% planted with 56% emerged. 5-year average is 96% planted.

Yield Potential Could approach normal yields if planted before mid-June and rest of year is good going, especially in August.

Corn Market

Current Prices \$7.10/bu

Fall Prices \$5.07/bu.

Past Weeks Old-crop 7c higher, new-
Trend crop 12c lower; generally
range-bound for past month

Soybean Market

Current Prices \$15.12/bu.

Fall Prices \$12.25/bu

Past Weeks Old-crop nearly steady over past week;
Trend uptrending on old crop over past
month; new-crop last dropped over
30c in past week, had been strongly
uptrending until this Monday.

Comments:

Worthwhile to recap the weather through the end of May. Iowa not only set, but smashed the old records for rainfall in May and the March-May period. This is over 141 years of record-keeping. Old record was 15.36" for the state, this May we rec'd 17.48". 30-year average is 10.22" for March-May. The only correlation for an extremely hot, dry year followed by such a cold, wet one (so far) goes back to 1901 and 1902. Needless to say, these are historic weather extremes we're dealing with. However, crops in our SW district are some of the better ones around. Some corn is approaching knee-high and beginning to catch nitrogen as indicated by a darker green color. Rainfall pushed applied nitrogen deeper into the soil, requiring roots to go deeper before reaching a plentiful supply. However, roots chase moisture and had no incentive to go deeper during continuous rainfall. Two scenarios we could see around the region - "shallow-root syndrome" where roots are not deep enough to withstand dry conditions later in the summer, and/or rapid growth which elongates cells, making stalks more susceptible to "brittle-snap" in high winds. All corn has this potential, some have more than others. Given a chance, we'll see corn fields experience rapid growth as it tries to catch up with beneficial weather. Beans are emerging in mostly good shape. Beans respond to changing daylight and begin to flower shortly after the summer solstice. They will not have much height at all at that point. Often, beans are knee-high by the 4th of July. Doesn't seem likely this year. However, it does not take a tall bean to make a good yield. Overall, it does not seem that new-crop corn is priced in accordance with the overall situation. DR