

# Southwest of Storm Lake

---

## Crop Conditions for 8-30-13

Past Weeks Rainfall	The story remains the same – spotty showers with extreme western Iowa faring better than most.
Soil Moisture	Dry in most fields. Some areas rec'd good rains of more than 1" last Saturday (the 21st). Most areas were closer to 3/10ths
Temperature	Highs in the 80's and lower 90's. Night-time in the 60's and low 70's. Humid.
Crop Progress	2 weeks behind normal

### Corn

**Crop Stage**    Kernels are denting or fully dented. Stalk and leaf health is generally quite good.

**Yield Potential**    There will be a lot of good corn in our southwestern territory, perhaps the best territory for us this year. Not sure many will approach record yields, but most will be pretty good.

### Soybeans

**Crop Stage**    Most are still shorter than normal but many fields reached waist high. Podding ranges from below normal to normal. Beans in pods are mostly barely formed but we are finding a few fields with plump beans in the pods.

**Yield Potential**    Yield potential varies a lot. Earlier beans appear to have set and developed more pods. Later beans have lost pods due to heat and dry weather stress. Late beans in fields that have been fortunate with rainfall still have good potential, too.

## Corn Market

Current Prices \$5.80/bu  
Fall Prices \$4.52/bu.  
Past Weeks Higher since August 13th  
Trend

## Soybean Market

Current \$14.37/bu.  
Prices  
Fall Prices \$13.07/bu  
Past Higher since August 6th  
Weeks  
Trend

## Comments:

August weather has been beneficial to some parts of our southwestern territory but generally speaking, another 2" of rain would have made a big difference. Corn is "tipped back" 1-2.5" in most cases, and not unusual to find a 3" tip-back. Even so, there are a lot of well-formed kernels and ears on each stalk. Kernel depth is the main question now. A good rain and nice finish to the growing season could still add yield with improved kernel depth. Early frost is a concern for many fields but not to the extent we see in other areas. If we can get to the normal first-frost date of October 5th, there will be little if any damage in this area. Corn dry-down is the main concern. Nice weather is needed to finish this crop and dry corn down before the days get short and the nights cooler in October. It takes around three weeks to go from full dent to physiological maturity. At that point, corn is safe from frost and kernels are around 30% moisture. With good weather, corn might then dry 1/2 to 1 point per day. Beans are safe from frost when the field appears to be about half yellow. So with a good September, our southwestern territory will do comparatively well.

Crop prices plunged in August but rebounded last week based on two things - the Pro Farmer Crop Tour results and the hot, dry forecast. Pro Farmer found fewer bean pods than normal and corn yields that were less than traders anticipated. It confirmed our thoughts all along. It seems likely that corn and bean prices will work higher than lower, although there will surely be harvest-time pressure on prices. Don't expect corn to charge back to \$7.00, however. DR