



Iowa Crop Tour results

Corn: 183.8 bu. per acre
Soybeans: 1,174 pods in 3'x3'

Minn. Crop Tour results

Corn: 190.4 bu. per acre
Soybeans: 1,101 pods in 3'x3'

Pro Farmer national corn and soybean crop estimates

Corn: 13.759 billion bu.; Average yield of 168.1 bu. per acre

Corn +/- 1% = 13.897 billion bu. to 13.621 billion bu.; 169.8 bu. to 166.4 per acre

Soybeans: 4.535 billion bu.; Average yield of 51.7 bu. per acre

Soybeans +/- 2% = 4.625 billion bu. to 4.444 billion bu.; 52.7 bu. to 50.7 bu. per acre

The national estimates above reflect Pro Farmer's view on production and yields. They take into account data gathered during Crop Tour and other factors like crop maturity, historical differences in Tour data versus USDA's final yields, areas outside those sampled on Tour, etc. That's why the state yield numbers below differ from the Crop Tour figures in the box above and on News page 2. We hope our corn yield and production estimates are too low, but that's what the Crop Tour data indicated. Based on August FSA certified acreage data, we increased soybean acreage by 500,000 acres. We made no adjustment to corn acreage.

Corn

IOWA: 198 bu. per acre. Of all the states we sampled on Crop Tour, Iowa had the most variability. The state has plenty of exceptional corn and some areas will produce the best yields ever. But there's also a fair amount of average and sub-par areas in the state.

ILLINOIS: 198 bu. per acre. Corn in Illinois was relatively consistent, but it lacked the "wow" factor required to produce a superior yield. In the really big yield years, the southern third of Illinois where we don't sample doesn't pull down. The crop in southern Illinois isn't poor, but it won't pull up the state average.

NEBRASKA: 164 bu. per acre. Dryland corn in the state is baked. Even the irrigated corn was hurt by the heat and dryness. Plus, the state had damage from hail and wind. There was just too much stress on the crop.

MINNESOTA: 191 bu. per acre. Central and southeastern areas of the state will carry the load this year. Other areas of the state have some issues.

INDIANA: 177 bu. per acre. The Indiana corn crop had plenty of ears, but grain length was an issue. Many of the ears we pulled during Crop Tour had notable kernel abortion at the tip of ears.

OHIO: 175 bu. per acre. Ohio has a very good corn crop but it won't rival last year's record yield. There's far more variability in the state this year, especially on grain length, which will hold the crop back.

SOUTH DAKOTA: 122 bu. per acre. We sample from the south-eastern portion of the state, which is normally the sweet spot. That isn't the case this year. Areas north of where we sample will be better, but the state as a whole has issues.

Soybeans

IOWA: 60 bu. per acre. Iowa's soybean crop is disease and weed-free. Recent rains came in time to help much of the western Iowa crop, though this area will need September rainfall to finish strong. Some eastern areas of the state have enough moisture to finish.

ILLINOIS: 64 bu. per acre. There is loads of potential with the Illinois soybean crop. And there is plenty of soil moisture to fill pods. Another rain would push much of the state's soybean crop to the finish line.

NEBRASKA: 53 bu. per acre. Dryland soybeans are hanging on and a late-season rain could allow plants to maintain their pods. Nebraska farmers haven't given up on irrigated soybeans and are actively pumping water.

MINNESOTA: 52 bu. per acre. Sudden Death Syndrome has reared its ugly head in some areas. The next one to two weeks will determine if disease pressure hurts yield potential. Moisture supplies are strong enough to finish the crop.

INDIANA: 59 bu. per acre. It rained ahead of and right after Crop Tour. The state has plentiful soybean moisture to finish strong. We found some fields that were still flowering, but there should be enough moisture to set and fill pods.

OHIO: 57 bu. per acre. Ohio has a slightly less mature crop than Indiana, but there's plenty of moisture to get it to the finish line. Maturity of the crop is far enough along to finish given the typical extended season in the far eastern Belt.

SOUTH DAKOTA: 41 bu. per acre. There's not much to say other than the crop has been severely damaged by heat and dryness. The worst areas have already given up and others aren't far from that level. Even a late-season rain wouldn't do much to benefit some of the crop at this point.

2022 Pro Farmer Crop Tour

— *The western Belt hurt by dryness and heat; eastern crops just need time to mature* —

It quickly became clear droughty conditions in the west had reduced yield potential of crops in that region, especially the corn crop. Significant dryness extended over much of South Dakota and Nebraska into western Iowa. Southwestern Minnesota had some dryness issues, but areas east of that were the best scouts on the western leg sampled.

Ohio: 174.2 bu. per acre; 1,132 pods in 3'x3'

The Ohio corn crop is strong, just not as consistent as last year's record yield. Scouts found much more variability in the state than last year, which is typical. Both ear counts (-0.5%) and grain length (-5.1%) fell short of year-ago levels. Although Ohio received good rains throughout summer, the crop hasn't fully recovered from the wet spring and the resulting planting delays.

The average soybean pod count in a 3-foot by 3-foot square was 5.3% below last year on Crop Tour. Pod counts were variable but the crop still has the potential to add pods and bushels into the end of the year given ample soil moisture.

Indiana: 177.9 bu. per acre; 1,166 pods in 3'x3'

As in 2021, the Indiana corn crop had consistent ear counts but tipback on the ears will hold yields back. Dryness at just the wrong time clearly reduced yield prospects. The yield estimate came up 8.1% below year-ago and 0.2% under the 3-year average.

In contrast, soybean pod numbers were decidedly inconsistent. A few poor samples offset some extreme highs, with the average coming up 6.0% below last year but topping the 3-year average by 1.5%. Pod counts were down, but we found some fields still flowering and favorable September conditions would boost the crop.

Illinois: 190.7 bu. per acre; 1,250 pods in 3'x3'

Illinois has enjoyed some of the best Corn Belt growing conditions this year and that was confirmed by the Crop Tour estimate. Though the yield we found was 2.8% below last year it was up 2.7% from the 3-year average. Tipback was less of an issue than in Indiana and Ohio, but grain length was still down. Ear counts and grain length were consistent, but the latter just didn't quite match the length seen in 2021.

While the Crop Tour pod count topped the 3-year average by 6.4%, it fell 2.4% below last year. The Illinois crop isn't lacking for moisture, so larger beans and fuller pods might power yields higher. Ultimately, the final yield depends on how the crop finishes.

The eastern soybean crop seemingly needs only time to reach its potential as soil moisture is ample across the region. Favorable September weather could add to already strong soybean yield potential in the eastern Belt. Tipback in corn was a common issue in the east, but it diminished as scouts moved into Illinois and Iowa.

S. Dakota: 118.5 bu. per acre; 871 pods in 3'x3'

The South Dakota corn crop showed the importance of good pollinating conditions, with yield potential having suffered badly from heat and dryness. Crop Tour often finds corn in the southeast better than other parts of the state, but that's unlikely the case this year. The Tour yield is down 21.8% from last year and 26.7% under the 3-year average.

Soybean pod counts were down 12.6% from last year's Tour and 15.1% below the 3-year average. Nodes are abnormally wide and have fewer pods per node and any remaining flowers were burned up. The crop needs immediate rain, but that may not rescue beans in some areas.

Nebraska: 158.5 bu. per acre; 1,064 pods in 3'x3'

Crop Tour samples found a corn yield that was down 13.1% from last year's level and 10.3% below the 3-year average. Persistent dryness and heat took a toll on the crop, especially dryland acres. But irrigated yields were also lower. Pollination issues and reduced grain length were common due to the hot, dry summer.

Nebraska's beans need immediate rain to salvage decent production from droughty conditions. Many pods weren't filled out and numerous plants had a few aborted pods. The pod count fell 13.3% from year-ago and 14.6% below the 3-year average.

Iowa and Minnesota crop observations

Crop conditions in southwestern and west-central Iowa mirrored those in Nebraska and South Dakota, with heat and dryness dragging down corn yield results. Though variable, yields were better in northwestern Iowa. As expected, scouts found much better yields in eastern areas of the state, especially northeast Iowa. The Iowa soybean crop looked solid with few problems. Bean plants in the west could use another rain, but weren't hurting for moisture like those in Nebraska and South Dakota.

Corn results in Minnesota were variable. Grain length remained an issue, with yield potential reduced in southwestern areas. Elevated ear counts helped boost yield potential. Excessive late-spring rains apparently limited the potential of the Minnesota soybean crop, with pod counts reduced on late-planted acres. Sudden Death Syndrome is showing up in some southwestern areas.



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#PFTour22 Crop Comments...

Please send crop comments to editors@profarmer.com.

"South Dakota #corn yields averaged 118.45 bu./acre on Crop Tour, easily the tour's worst since 2012 (which was WAY worse at 74.3). Pod counts for soybeans a 3-year low at 871.4. Tour pods in 2012 were 585."

"In 8 stops in crop districts 5, 4 & 7 in Ohio, soybean samples along my route averaged 1,359.7 pods in a 3' by 3' square. Range of 651 to 2,534."

"From 11 corn samples on our route in OH cropping districts 5, 2, & 1 today, average 185 bu./acre. High of 266 in Marion Co. and low of 132 in Henry Co."

"Five stops in northeast Nebraska, one irrigated. Average pod count on beans 1,119 vs the 3-year average in this district of 1,181. Not terrible, but many of those pods may not survive without rain soon. The average yield of six corn fields is 133 bu./acre. Northeast Nebraska; average yields last year 182; 3-yr avg 175, so it's not good here."

"First stops in Indiana today for the Crop Tour and crops are more consistent. First three stops: 187 bpa average on corn, compared to 193 bpa last year and 178 bpa for the 2019-21 average."

"Finding much better corn so far versus yesterday on my route in Nebraska. 203 bu./acre average after 5 stops in Hamilton, Northern York & Polk Counties. Actually slightly better than last year through 5 stops on this same route."

"Soybean quote of the night - 'I don't know, they were fine...' Pod counts were same or less than last year, weed pressure high. Biggest thing is beans need a rain & they need it now."

"What's with all the tip back? Pioneer agronomist Pat Reeg says delayed planting, lack of rain and solar radiation were big factors in findings so far at the Bloomington, IL stop."

"Average 3' x 3' pod count from 10 samples on our split route today in Illinois cropping districts 3 & 4: 1,398. High 1915, low 1,045. Warmish. Ready for a cold one!"

"Our corn sample in Cedar County, IA had lots of greensnap, wind and weed pressure. The yield is 114.1 because of poor stand. You can see the ears were nice. The pod count came in at 836."

"Stop 9 just North of Jacksonville IL. Soybeans a little lower at 1,140 pods, but best corn of the tour thus far. Also most mature: 262.5 bpa. There's the one we've been waiting for."

"Second stop Murray Co. MN: (4 stops total). Lowest yield of the day so far. Still really good corn at 216. Lyon County: Highest yield so far 229.89. High population, shorter ear, but 18.66 rows. Soybeans still struggling; 549 total pods, very short."

"18 round 24 long 16,000 population in the fringe; likely divide by 85,000 kernels per bu. for a guess of 81.3 bu./ac. McLean County, ND."

Railroads under growing scrutiny

The railroads and others in the industry gathered last week in Kansas City, Mo., for the National Grain Car Council meeting, and the Surface Transportation Board (STB) was asking rail carriers how they are prepared for this fall's grain harvest. This comes while the STB is considering aggressive new rulemaking to force railroads to share tracks and expand competition for their customers. These steps are coming amidst customer complaints about poor service and delays and are infuriating politicians who are anxious about goods shortages and inflation. The STB is now requiring the railroads to submit weekly performance reports. Bigger rules changes in the works could shift the carriers' business landscape for years to come.

Red meat demand has improved

USDA's Cold Storage Report estimated U.S. beef stocks at 510.8 million lbs. as of July 31, down 1.2% from the end of June but up 27%, from the same date a year earlier. The 6.0 million-lb. monthly drop contrasts with an average July increase of 22.2 million lbs. the previous five years. U.S. pork stocks at the end of July totaled 530.1 million lbs., down 8.6 million lbs. for the month and doubling the five-year average July drop of 4.2 million pounds.

The concerted declines confirm a big improvement in red meat demand.

FSA publishes prevent planted acres

The acreage U.S. farmers were unable to plant last spring more than tripled the 2021 total as extreme weather wreaked havoc on fields. Prevented planting acres reached 6.4 million, according to the USDA Farm Service Agency's August report. That's up from 2.1 million last year. Corn was the hardest hit with more than 3 million acres unplanted. The data indicated there were 1.19 million corn acres in North Dakota and 540,193 corn acres in South Dakota prevented from planting. Soybean prevented planting totaled 987,229 acres in the August data, with more than half — 522,061 acres — in North Dakota. However, FSA stated August cotton acres at 13.517 million, implying total 2022 cotton planted acres will come in around 13.76 million. Even assuming some added yield losses in August, U.S. cotton production could top USDA's August forecast by 1 million bales.

IRA may not let EPA regulate GHGs

The New York Times and others say language in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) amends the Clean Air Act and allows the EPA to regulate greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). But a lawyer contact told us the effort "will fall short" because the needed language would have violated the Byrd Rule. Instead, the IRA provides funding for GHG reductions.

Corn is damaged; soybeans have strong potential

by Pro Farmer editors

The question heading into Crop Tour was would there be enough bushels in the eastern Corn Belt to offset lost production in western areas of the region. After Crop Tour, the answer is clearly there won't be enough corn in the east to offset the west... not nearly enough. The combination of heat and dryness was too intense for too long in western areas of the Corn Belt. And while the eastern Belt had favorable conditions, those states also endured periods of heat and dryness. That will keep the crop from reaching its full potential in the eastern Corn Belt.

East is a beast... just not beastly enough for corn

Ohio and Indiana have good corn crops, they just aren't as stellar as last year. Neither state is as consistent as last year, especially on grain length. Illinois is more consistent than last year but it too showed signs of stress from too much summer heat and dryness.

West is a mess aside from eastern Iowa and Minnesota

We knew heading into Crop Tour there were real struggles in South Dakota, Nebraska and western Iowa. But what we found on Crop Tour was worse than we expected. Corn in all three of those areas was severely damaged by the extended heat and dryness. As we saw last year, genetics can compensate for extended dryness. What genetics can't do is compensate for both heat and dryness, which is what plagued the western Corn Belt this year.

The corn yield could be record-large for many producers in eastern Iowa, though southeastern areas have some issues. Crop Tour data showed Minnesota's corn crop was much better than last year. But we sample in the highest yielding areas in southern Minnesota. The central and northern portions of the state will pull down the state average this year.

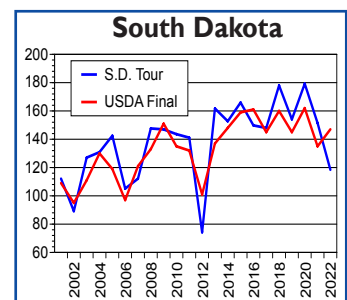
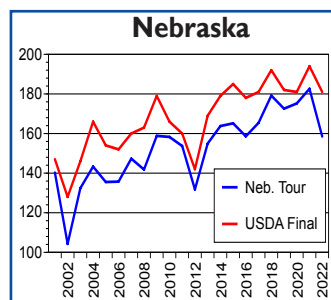
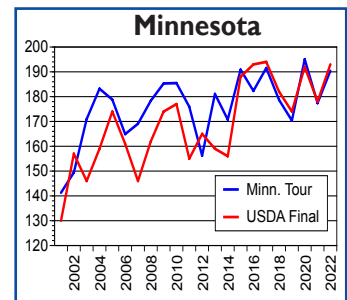
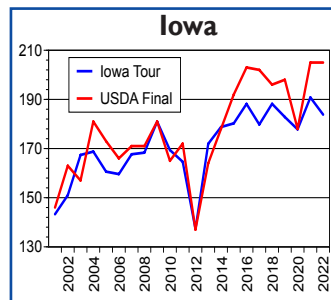
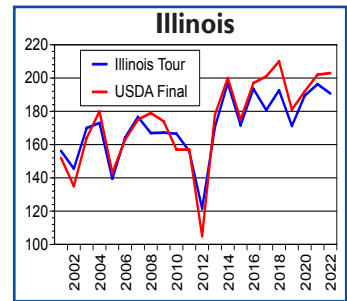
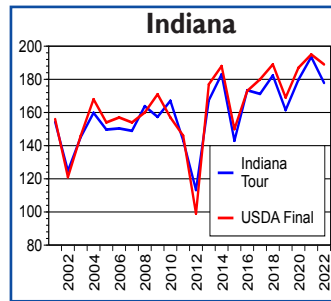
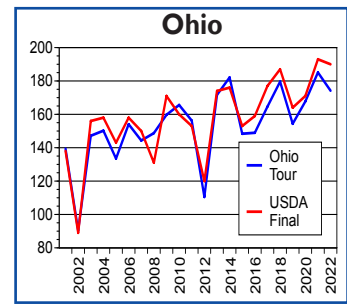
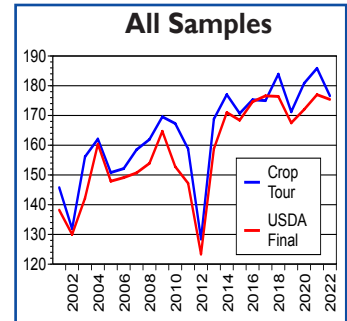
Soybeans will be strong... and could be record-large

Soybean pod counts were down from year-ago, but fewer pods doesn't necessarily mean lower yields. Our pod counts were near the "sweet spot" that we've found leads to maximum yields over the past 29 years of Crop Tour data. Moisture ratings this year were up sharply in all but Nebraska and South Dakota. The increased moisture should allow the soybean crop to finish strong. If September weather is favorable, late-maturing and double-crop soybeans would build bigger yields and add to production.

Historical Difference — Tour Yield Vs. USDA Final (avg. since 2001)

Ohio	ADD	3.8 bu.
Indiana	ADD	3.0 bu.
Illinois	ADD	2.6 bu.
Iowa	ADD	5.8 bu.
Nebraska	ADD	14.5 bu.
Minnesota	SUB	7.4 bu.
S. Dakota	SUB	6.1 bu.
7-State	SUB	6.3 bu.

Corn yields generated by Crop Tour typically find the year-to-year trend in each state. Apply the "historical difference" to the calculated yield in each state. Most importantly, use the historical difference on the "All Samples" average yield to get close to USDA's final yield.



On each of the charts above, USDA's 2022 yield is the Aug. 1 yield estimate. For all other years, USDA's yield is the final yield.

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