

Harvesting Tips and Concerns

By Jared Pronschinske, Agronomist

As we move through October the fields are a happening place for a lot of us filled with excitement to see how the crop will perform. I think that we are looking at a good crop, but that crop also comes with some concerns.

This summer's combination of prolonged, intense heat, the wet conditions that we had late in the year, and the touch of drought can be a recipe for disaster. If you haven't been in your fields lately, you might want to take a look or ask one of our staff to look for you. When you are out scouting the main focus should be on keeping an eye out for poor or weak stalks but also watching out for ear rots and molds. If your field has anthracnose stalk rot, or if the plants have weak stalks in general, it is critical to make a plan for harvest so you don't have to try to pick the plants off of the ground with the combine.

If you happen to be in the situation where you have fields where the corn is lying flat and you need to try to pick it up to harvest it, it is a good idea to let the stalks be as dry as possible as they will feed much better into the combine. In addition, if possible remove the ear savers and, in worst-case scenarios, you can oppose your gathering chains or flip them to be more aggressive.

No one wants to waste precious time or waste yield in the fall trying to salvage a corn field that is flat on the ground, so take the time to take a quick look at your fields to identify areas of concern and adjust your harvest plan accordingly. A little extra time spent now can sometimes save you precious time later. Good luck and safe harvesting!



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