

# 2008 U of I Corn And Soybean Yield Data Now Available



**ROBERT C. BELLM**

**EDWARDSVILLE, ILL.**

I suspect that many combines hadn't even been cleaned up and put away, or the last loads of grain dried and safely in storage, before seed dealers began contacting growers to make advance orders for next spring. Many factors will

enter into your final selection decisions, and the more information you can gather before ordering your seed the better decision you can make.

There are two primary sources of yield information readily available to growers: replicated research trials conducted by universities and non-replicated demonstration plots typically conducted by seed companies or distributorships. The demonstration plots often showcase limited numbers of entries from only one company. Somewhere in between these two, you may still find some local Extension demonstration plots that, while non-replicated, contain seed entries from numerous different companies.

Relying solely upon the results of one or two local non-replicated demonstration plots to make next year's seed selection decisions is probably not the best choice. However, demonstration plot information can be made useful if you can obtain it from numerous different sites. There are probably several dozen such plots conducted in any given area of the state each season. It is often possible to obtain yield infor-

mation on the specific set of hybrids or varieties that you are interested in from multiple locations. Simply average the yield from the various locations to get a better idea of how your choice might perform in the future, and avoid relying on a single, local demonstration plot to make seed purchasing decisions.

University yield trials offer the advantage of measuring yields over a wider range of yield environments than local demonstration strip-plots. They are conducted at multiple sites each year, with multiple replications per site, and the data for entries may be available from multiple years. Yield variability caused by fertility, drainage, environment, and other factors not related to the hybrid or variety being tested can be calculated and accounted for, resulting in yield numbers that are more accurately predictive of future performance. In addition, university trials contain a much wider representation of seed companies and their offerings than will be found in most local plots.

The yield results of this year's University of Illinois Variety Testing Program for corn, soybean, small grains, and forages are now available online at <http://vt.crops.uiuc.edu/>. In addition, there is a link on the U of I Variety Testing website to the University Crop Testing Alliance. From there, you can access the crop variety testing information from all of the land grant universities in the North Central Region.

△

*Robert Bellm is University of Illinois Extension Educator, Crop Systems, at the Edwardsville Extension Center.*