

Corn Harvest Begins Slowly In Southwest Missouri

SPRINGFIELD, MO.

Corn harvest is underway in southwest Missouri, but the late start to the planting season will result in a long and late harvest season for many farmers according to Jay Chism, an agronomy specialist with University of Missouri Extension in Barton County.

Farmers got off to a late start due to the wet spring. Record moisture resulted in nitrogen losses, uneven corn stands, and an increase of seedling diseases to many corn crops across the state.

"Yields will be variable. Research has shown that early planted corn usually has the highest yields. In our part of the country that means planting in late March or early April," said Chism.

This season, much of the corn that was planted at what is typically considered the opportune time, only had fair stands.

"Farmers are reporting that the corn that was planted toward the end of April is providing above average yields," said Chism. "Although it is still very early and much of the corn is only now beginning dry down, local fields are producing 120 to 150 dry land corn, and 200 bushel per acre under irrigation."

According to the US Department of Agriculture production report estimated corn yields will average 152.3 bushel per acre this fall, down 2.7 bushels from the August forecast.

For Iowa, the nation's largest producer of corn, the estimated yield is 168 bushel, down three bushel from last year.

"Similar to last season, a big threat to late planted crops is early frost," said Chism. "We really need a later-than-normal season to maximize the yield potential of area corn and soybean crops." Δ