

Estimating Corn Yields

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Once pollination has been over for a few weeks, producers can begin to estimate their corn yields for this fall. One procedure for estimating yields is fairly simple. However, those attempting it should be ready to spend a little time in the field if they really want to get the most accurate estimate.

When estimating corn yield, the producer needs to first determine the number of ears per acre. Begin by pre-determining a number of rows that the producer will walk into the field, and a number of steps that will be walked down the row. The producer should walk this path and stop exactly at that point. By following this approach, the producer randomly selects areas at the field rather than biasing the estimate by picking out better looking areas of the field. Data collected will be that much more accurate.

Next, the producer measures out 17 foot 5 inch of row in thirty-inch rows and counts all the ears in that length of row. Multiplying the number of ears in 17 foot 5 inch of row by 1,000, gives the producer the number of ears per acre.

The producer should then pick three representative ears, count the total number of kernels, and divide the number of kernels by three. This gives the producer the average number of kernels per ear.

Multiplying the number of kernels per ear by the number of ears per acre and dividing by 90,000 gives the bushels per acre. This approach assumes 90,000 kernels per bushel which may vary depending on average kernel size and test weight.

The producer should do this type of sampling at five acre intervals in order to achieve the most accurate survey. △



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