

Farmers In Illinois Upgrade Cropping Practices

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Cropping practices used by Illinois farmers in 2009 have been recently reported by the Illinois Field Office (Springfield) of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA and Illinois Department of Agriculture. The report shows trends in corn and soybean production practices.

In 2009, the row width of corn grown for grain averaged 30 inches. The average row width continues to decline with 84 ½ percent of the acreage in the 20.6 to 30.5 inches row width category.

Plant population of corn for grain was a record breaking 29,600 plants per acre. This breaks the record attained in 2008 of 28,900 plants per acre. The number of ears per acre, at 28,900 was up 550 from the record breaking figure obtained in 2008.

The average row width of Illinois soybean was 18.6 inches in 2009, nearly two inches wider than 2008. The most common row width cate-

gory was from 10.1 to 18.5 inches, accounting for 52 percent of the samples. The next largest row width category was 28.6 to 34.5 inches, which accounted for 27.7 percent of the samples.

These figures are from surveys done in randomly selected fields throughout Illinois. Counts and measurements are made monthly at these fields.

Regarding the use of biotechnology traits in 2009 corn, 84 percent of the Illinois corn acreage was planted to biotechnology hybrids, up 4 percent from 2008. In soybean, 90 percent of the planted acreage was to herbicide resistant biotechnology varieties, an increase of 3 percent from 2008.

For further details and to see reports released during 2009 by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, see this web site: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Illinois/Publications/Farm_Reports/2009/09_alpha.htm . Δ



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