

Illinois Corn And Soybean: A Review Of 2010

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After several atypical years, Illinois experienced a growing season in 2010 that was pretty much dull and normal. Early dry weather coupled with warm temperatures allowed many farmers throughout Illinois to complete planting by May dates rather than June and July for 2008 and 2009. The weather was warm and ample moisture was available during May and June. However throughout much of the state rains ceased in July and avoided much of the state for the rest of the growing season. This caused much of the crops to finish earlier with test weights being down along with overall yields.

Looking around the state: Russell Higgins reported that in NE Illinois early season planting conditions were almost ideal. Many producers started planting in mid April and went straight from corn to Sb. Adequate to an overabundance of rainfall through most of June and then it turned dry with very limited rainfall post tasselling in corn. Despite the lack of late season rain and the presence of SDS on some Soybeans. Soybean yields have been very good for most of our area ranging from 55-65+. Corn yields have been more variable, from 150 in fields that had water ponding early in the year to 200+ in well drained fields or areas that had more timely rains. Little disease pressure was noted on corn. Both crops rushed to maturity with the late season heat wave.

Dale Baird added that pest problems were minimal throughout the year. Sudden death

syndrome was observed in many areas during mid August but most infected fields just had small individual SDS areas. There was some Japanese beetle defoliation in soybeans but far below economic damage. Aphids were present as well but I was not aware of any treated fields. Alfalfa fields were treated for potato leafhopper. Fungicide application was common on both corn and soybean acres.

Southern Illinois planting conditions were good early with warm temperatures and dry conditions that permitted April plant dates for much of the corn with soybean planting following shortly thereafter. Early conditions were ideal with good moisture and warm conditions. Japanese beetle emergence was about 2 weeks early and intense; however it tapered off rather rapidly. High heat and dry conditions beginning in July and continuing throughout the rest of the season resulted in stressing much of the crop and reducing yields especially for those crops planted later in the season. Corn yields were more typical for southern Illinois generally staying below 150 bushels per acre. Soybean yields were more variable. Early planted soybeans tended to produce good yields, however late planted beans were unable to fill completely due to the lack of moisture in August and September. Green stem symptoms were noted in many locations in southern Illinois.

All considered 2010 was generally a good year for corn and soybeans, even though it may have seemed to be a down year after the wet and wooly seasons in 2008 and 2009. Next year the only prediction that I can make is that it will indeed be interesting. Δ

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