

Scout For Lodging Potential

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Lodging of a corn crop from a strong wind slows harvest operations and can result in yield losses. It is always a good idea to scout for lodging potential as a corn crop matures. However, this year, the risk of disease-induced lodging is higher than normal in Kentucky. Drought conditions during grain fill put substantial stress on corn plants. In many fields, it is likely that the corn

crop responded by cannibalizing stalk reserves to fill the grain. This results in a weakened stalk and greater susceptibility to stalk rot.

Growers should check corn fields for lodging potential. The easiest way to do this is to walk through the field and, at about chest height, push the plants about 8-12 inches from vertical. A stalk that bends and fails to spring back is prone to lodging. If 10-15 percent of the stalks in a field exhibit lodging potential, the field should be scheduled for early harvest. Δ

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