

Yes, Another Delayed Planting

DENNIS R. EPPLIN

MT. VERNON, ILL.



Delayed corn planting has almost become the norm in southern Illinois. Less than 10 percent of the intended corn acreage was planted by May 10 in southeastern Illinois. That is worse than last year, 2002 and 1999. I believe that you have to go back to the 1993 flood year to find greater delays.

Research has shown that, on average, early timely planting benefits corn yields. Some of that same research indicates that we may be losing 1.4+ bushels of potential yield per day as the calendar continues to advance. Each day that planting is delayed after June 1 can potentially result in an average loss of 2.2 bushels.

It would be a fair question to ask, "Well what about the 2008 season?" Last year was certainly a delayed planting season and many growers

enjoyed very good or better corn production. We were fortunate to have reasonable late season temperatures and adequate precipitation. The earlier quoted research is not incorrect; it remains the most probable result. The chance for moderate temperatures and above average rainfall is simply a possibility rather than a probability.

We are also fortunate in southern Illinois to have a relatively long growing season with a "surplus" of growing degree units. Later planting (up to mid-June) usually allows adapted hybrids to reach physiological maturity. The grain moisture may not always dry down to desirable levels.

What will 2009 hold? That continues to be an unknown until planting is completed. Pollination and grain fill later in the season will be the first real indicator of potential crop yields. Stay tuned and manage your crop for optimum production. Δ

DENNIS R. EPPLIN: University of Illinois Extension Educator, Crop Systems.



Link Directly To: **SYNGENTA**