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Nels Kasey

Central & Southern Illinois & Indiana

Hello Great Heart Customers and thank you for your business!

Much of the corn in central Illinois and Indiana got off to a good start with most planted in late April and early May. The relatively drier conditions helped establish high stand counts, but by June 5th I actually saw corn rolling on good soils. However, moving just a county away saw huge rainfall totals all spring, and southern Illinois certainly falls into that category. It has had a huge impact on planting progress and current crop condition. Since June 7th, it has poured everywhere! The crop stood the storms remarkably well and no doubt corn rootworms struggled with the drenching. Nitrogen loss due to leaching will be significant in some areas and could affect yields and late season plant integrity. There is also a difference in early growth among hybrids in the test plots. And once again HT-7238 (the DroughtGard® Double Pro hybrid) leads the way with fast emergence, size and dark green color. As a reminder, it started out that way last year too and ended the season at the top of the yield chart! The Illinois/Indiana corn crop is rated at 18% excellent, 57% good, 21% fair, and 4% poor to very poor.

Soybean planting began shortly after corn, but due to the varying rainfall it has not yet ended, especially in southern Illinois. There was a little replant early due to beans sprouting in limited moisture but lacking enough to sustain growth and finally dying out, but that was very rare. With the higher recent rain amounts, we are beginning to see some fields yellowing as the root nodules just can't fixate nitrogen. These same conditions also cause bean fields to grow much slower than usual. Soybeans really don't like saturated soils, especially when young. With some sunshine and drier conditions, the beans will recover quickly and grow rapidly, but so will the weeds. Custom applicators are concerned about weed control on fields that haven't had their intended post herbicide sprayed yet. If you are considering a herbicide change for next year you may want to attend the University of Illinois Weed Science Field Research Tour. For \$10 it's a good way to see someone else be the guinea pig. Check it out at <http://bulletin.ipm.illinois.edu/?p=3197>. The Illinois/Indiana bean crop is

rated at 12% excellent, 58% good, 25% fair, and 5% poor to very poor.

The heavy rains and wind have put some wheat on the ground which causes harvest issues and slows drying. That said, if we get drier weather for the rest of June, yields and test weights may still impress. Many areas avoided scab better than I expected for a wet spring. I've also seen some impressive tillering in some fields this year. When GHT-940 is nearly ripe it still has more ability to hold test weight when rained on. This advantage compared to other varieties may come in to play this year. The new GHT-930 shares that ability, and new GHT-942 comes in with a high yield potential. The Illinois/Indiana wheat crop is rated at 10% excellent, 51% good, 31% fair, and 8% poor to very poor.

Thanks and talk with you soon!

Marty Moran

Southeastern Illinois

Hello to all our Great Heart customers and Team members from South Eastern IL. I have been asked to share a few comments on what is happening in the field.

Corn and Beans as well as wheat are under plenty of moisture so far. Corn has been limited on nitrogen up take. There has been some differences between some preplant applications compared to sidedress. Also the stabilizers have looked to be very helpful in a lot of saturated soils. Drainage differences can be seen in areas as well. Some farmers have had a little replant in certain areas depending on planting time and how much rain along with cool temperatures. Overall after some rise in degree days with warmer days and nights, corn looks promising. It's amazing with the new genetics and treatments just how far we have come. Ten to twenty years ago we would not have handled this weather like corn and beans did this spring under all the pressure they endured. On the bean front we have had comparable conditions. Beans that were planted early had some stress from rain and cold, but also I was seeing some chemical damage as the beans were showing symptoms of chemical burn at the surface level as they emerged. So be watchful and cautious, when and what we spray on some of these products. There seems to be no perfect solution sometimes. Beans also have been slow growing

but with more heat are looking much better.

In summary continue to look at your fields and make notes. Ask yourself what can I do to improve on my management to have greater results? Could it be your planter adjustments, chemical, fertility, or even seed selection based off ratings for your field conditions? We can only control so much, the GOOD LORD does the rest. Remember it is seed time and harvest.

Until next time be BLESSED!

Mark Kinsey, CCA

Regional Update

The first question I've been getting wherever I go has been (How's planting going every where else?) So here's what's been going on in the areas I cover during this very challenging spring.

Southeast Missouri: Simply put; WET! Corn and soybean planting was delayed from the start due to above average rainfall. A majority of the corn got planted however, it was strung out for an extended time period. Soybean planting to date is still a long way from being completed (the first time). To complicate issues, the Mississippi river is rising rapidly. Flood stage at Cape Girardeau is 32'. It is expected to crest Tuesday June 23rd at 44.5'. We are in a wait and see mode for what seed needs that will be required. Several of the soybean growers affected by the flooding have indicated they intend to plant (or replant) up till mid July. Steven Peel (owner of Seed Solutions) and I made our way to three of our corn plots early this week and did our annual hybrid evaluations and comparisons. Hybrids that stood out were (in no particular order) HT-7240, HT-7261, HT-7778 and HT-7741. I also was impressed with the new HT-7004, HT-7007 and HT-7381.

Northern Indiana, Southern Michigan, and Northeast Ohio: Simply put; WET! It's been a challenging spring in this area also. Below normal temperatures and above normal rainfall delayed a majority of the corn planting until the second week of May. Corn planting was also strung out in this area with a percentage of intended corn acres never getting planted. However, I am impressed with the emergence and early development of HT-6007, HT-6930, HT-7037 and HT-7004. Soybeans planting ranges from 100% complete (the first time), to have not started and everything in between. The last three

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Great Heart Seed
220 W. Washington St.
Paris, IL 61944



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weeks have been exceptionally difficult for any fieldwork due a continuous pattern of rain showers. It literally seems that it rains everyday in this area. This week I witnessed a distinct deterioration of both corn and soybeans in various areas of this district due to the extended anaerobic soil conditions.

Delmarva Peninsula & Eastern Shore: Simply put; WET! The Delmarva Peninsula has been wet also however, when I was out there a couple weeks ago corn planting was wrapping up and soybean planting was gearing up. I evaluated one of the corn research plots in Georgetown, Delaware on Sunday June 6th. That particular plot was at the V4 stage of growth. There are several new hybrids in this particular plot and it is quite uniform. Hybrids that stood out and received my highest emergence and early development scores were HT-7240, HT-7238, HT-7004 and HT-7381. A special "thank you" goes to Jay Baxter for providing me with a tractor and planter.

Down in the areas of Virginia Beach, Chesapeake Virginia, and Elizabeth City North Carolina it was an unusually wet April & May. The corn that did get planted in these areas went in late and for the most part has struggled all spring. Isolated areas started planting beans the last week of May, while the first two weeks of June have seen the majority of 1st crop beans planted. GT-476CR2, GT-482CR2S and GT-500CR2S's have really emerged well and look excellent at this early stage. Wheat harvest started this week and I'm getting excellent reports on GHT-940 and GHT-955. One customer harvested 2400 bushels of GHT-955 off of a 22-acre field. I'm looking forward to harvesting our research plot in Virginia Beach next week, and of course the second soybean season (double-crop).

I want to thank all our customers for purchasing Great Heart Seed! I also want to thank the dealers and distributors that accepted the challenges of the selling season and stayed the course with dedication and the drive to be successful. Those individuals know who they are and I sincerely appreciate your efforts!

In the next update, I will tell you all about a few truly Great Seedsmanship success stories.