



A DIVISION OF SOY CAPITAL BANK & TRUST COMPANY

Highlights of the 2011 McLean County Corn Yield Estimates Performed by Soy Capital Ag Services - Bloomington

1. Scope of Project – 1600 samples from 160 locations; Samples taken on managed farms from every township in McLean County by eight Soy Capital Farm Managers.

2. Estimated Average Yield - 167.1 bushels/acre; This projected yield is almost **22 bushels per acre less** than Soy Capital Ag Services’ average projected yield for the **last five years** and is lowest projection since 2005. Sample yields ranged from 23.5 bushels/acre to 224.3 bushels/acre. Only **7%** of the locations returned a yield estimate **over 200 bushels/acre** compared to 24% in 2010. **18%** of the locations returned a yield estimate **below 150 bushels/acre** compared to only 11% in 2010. Most of the samples used for this estimate were taken in early August. The ears in the sample set had **fewer kernels per ear** because of the **hot, dry weather, hybrids planted** and **higher plant population**. The average kernels per row were 29.5 compared to 30.5 a year ago and the number of rows per ear fell from 16.4 to 15.2. Due to the summer heat, this corn crop raced through the early grain fill period. The **summer heat** along with a **shortage of moisture** in areas of the county **will result in poor grain fill** and may cause final yields to fall below our projection. The northern half of the county will likely yield more than the southern half due to more rainfall in July and August. Rainfall now will provide limited benefit to this corn crop.

3. Soy Capital Historical Statistics –

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Ave. Planting Date:	May 2	Apr 26	Apr 21	Apr 19	Apr 29	Apr 28	May 1	May 17	Apr 18	May 9
Ave. Ear Population:	26,400	28,300	28,520	27,430	28,760	29,530	30,660	30,410	31,250	31,530
Ave. Plant Population:		28,950	29,394	28,770	29,530	30,430	31,480	31,310	32,560	32,980
Ave. # of Rows/Ear:	16.2	16.1	15.9	15.2	16.0	16.2	16.7	16.6	16.4	15.2
Ave Kernel Length/Ear:	30.9	36.2	35.0	30.6	33.8	35.8	32.8	34.0	30.5	29.5
Ave. Estimated Yield:	151.0	184.6	176.3	143.1	179.5	195.2	190.4	196.3	182.8	167.1
Sample Set Actual Yield:	DNC	186.8	191.3	159.5	186.9	205.9	203.4	196.9	174.9	
McLean County Ag Stats. Yield:	145	182	185	161	182	196	190	186	169.5	

4. The 2011 McLean County Yield Story –

Weather: This corn crop was planted later than normal due cold, wet soil conditions but emerged nicely and was in excellent condition in early July. The heat in late July and early August along with limited rainfall throughout July and August will result in a below average crop.

2011 McLean County Yield Story (Continued)–



Planting Date: Planting dates for the samples taken ranged from April 14th through May 23rd with an *average planting date of May 9th*. With the exception of 2009, this is the latest average planting date in Soy Capital Ag Services fourteen year survey history. One half of the sample set was *planted prior to May 10th, 24% was planted on May 10th and the remaining 26% was planted after May 10th*. The corn planted before May 10th is showing a slight yield advantage over the corn planted after May 10th. The corn planted on May 10th was very close to the average sample set overall yield. Once again, the data indicates early planted corn in good soil conditions will out yield later planted corn.

Emergence: Higher planting rates and good emergence resulted in the *highest recorded overall plant population* of 32,980 plants per acre *and harvestable ears* of 31,530 ears per acre. The number of plants without a harvestable ear was slightly greater than in the past due to the hot, dry weather during late pollination and early grain fill.

Corn on Corn: Corn on corn is going to have another tough year. *24%* of the 2011 samples pulled *were corn on corn samples*. Of this 24%, about 87% is continuous corn (3 years or more) and 13% is 2nd year corn. The average sample set yield of the *continuous corn* was *128.5 bushels/acre* compared to the *corn on soybean stubble* samples of *177.7 bushels/acre*. This is almost a 50 bushel per acre difference. Nine samples in the sample set were below 100 bushels per acre and all of these samples were from continuous corn. In addition to typical continuous corn stresses, Goss's Bacterial Wilt was worse in the continuous corn. Goss's Wilt is a bacterial inflection that overwinters in the corn residue and causes the plant leaves to die prematurely. This is the second year in row this disease has affected corn production. A crop rotation to a non-host crop like soybeans, tillage and tolerant hybrids are the best control practices available at this time.

Fungicide Application: Once again, we tracked those samples sprayed with a fungicide. *62%* of our samples *received a fungicide application at the R1 (tassel) growth stage*. The **fungicide treated** samples are *estimated to out yield the untreated samples by 15 bushels per acre*. The reason for this advantage is unknown as the benefit from a fungicide application typically comes from heavier kernels and not from a larger kernel set. However, the fungicide treatment may have helped the corn plant endure the hot, dry weather in July and August. *Outside of Goss's Wilt*, the *corn leaf disease* on the untreated corn was *limited*. The fungicide treatment should also help keep the plant intact this fall.

Standability: Field observations indicate recent winds have had an impact on corn standability. In addition, summer stress is causing the plants to cannibalize the stalk to fill the ear. Therefore, decision on the *timing of harvest will be critical* this fall.

