

Number of Ears of Corn per Bushel

A bushel of **shelled corn** (grain removed from the cob) weighs **56 pounds**. The number of ears required to yield one bushel depends on ear size and kernel density:

Ear Size	Approx. Kernels per Ear	Ears per Bushel	Notes
8-inch ear	~500 kernels	112 ears	Standard reference; each ear yields ~0.5 lb grain ^[1] .
Smaller ears	<500 kernels	>112 ears	Requires more ears to reach 56 lb grain.
Larger ears	>500 kernels	<112 ears	Fewer ears needed due to higher kernel yield.

Key Points:

- **Kernel count:** A bushel requires **~80,000 kernels** on average^[2].
- **Adjustments:**
 - Small/broken ears count as **0.5 ears**.
 - Very large ears count as **1.5 ears**^[1].
- **Stalks vs. ears:**
 - One stalk typically produces **1–2 ears**, but bushels measure grain (not stalks).
 - Stalk count per bushel is **not standardized**, as it depends on ear yield per stalk.

Sweet Corn vs. Field Corn

- **Sweet corn** (sold in husk): 1 bushel = **70 lbs**^[3], but ear count varies by size.
- **Field corn** (grain): Uses the 56-lb bushel standard above.

Summary

- **112 ears of 8-inch field corn ≈ 1 bushel (56 lb)** of shelled grain^[1].
- Kernel size, ear length, and environmental factors cause variability ($\pm 10\text{--}20\%$).

This conversion is essential for estimating grain yield from unharvested fields or calculating feed value in agriculture^{[1] [4]}.

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1. <https://beef.unl.edu/estimating-bushels-corn-ground-counting-ears-prior-grazing-cattle/>

2. https://www.reddit.com/r/corn/comments/1dfe0r9/i_know_its_probably_a_stupid_question_but_how/

3. <https://www.foodbankcny.org/assets/Documents/Vegetable-conversion-chart.pdf>

4. <https://www.omnicalculator.com/biology/grain-conversion>