PRODUCT SELECTION

SEEDBED PREPARATION & PLANTING

PLANTING POPULATION

Average corn populations have increased by 300 to 425 plants per acre per year in the Corn Belt over the past 25 years. These increases have been directly correlated to increases in corn yield on an annual basis; however, achieving the optimum seeding rate for a given field is complex and is affected by both economics and final stand yield components.

EARLY SEASON

EVALUATING EARLY SEASON STAND ESTABLISHMENT

Understanding differences in emergence and early season growth between corn products on your farm can offer valuable insights into potential growth and yield differences later in the season.

AREAS TO EVALUATE

- Genetic Differences
- Environment
- Residue
- Disease

MID-SEASON

VARYING GDU REQUIREMENTS

Having a number of products with a range of GDU requirements to mid-pollination can reduce the risk of poor pollination due to heat and drought stress, zipper ear, diplodia ear rot, and silk clipping from insects such as Japanese beetle and corn rootworm adults.

HYBRID SELECTION

On average, daily GDU accumulation during the prime pollination period is around 25 GDUs. A difference as small as 40 to 50 GDUs to mid-pollination between products can lead to a spread of 1 to 2 days for flowering.

PRODUCT SELECTION

LATE SEASON

EVALUATION OF PRODUCT SELECTION

Scouting during grain fill is important to begin understanding how the individual products and overall package of genetics you've planted are performing in the field.

THIS IS THE TIMEFRAME TO:

1. Evaluate pollination success.
2. Evaluate plant, stalk and ear health.
3. Estimate yield potential.
4. Begin developing a harvest schedule to prioritize early maturing, stressed or high-risk fields for lodging to harvest first.

HARVEST

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Harvest is our opportunity each and every year to quite literally reap what we sow. It presents both the occasion to celebrate our successes in the current year and to identify missed opportunities, evaluate management missteps and begin formulating a plan for greater success in the next cropping season.

KEY FACTORS TO EVALUATE

- YIELD!!!
- Harvest moisture
- Standability and stalk strength
- Disease presence and severity (stalk rots, ear rots, foliar diseases, etc.)
- Insect damage (European corn borer, corn rootworm, corn earworm, etc.)

EVALUATE FOR BETTER YIELD POTENTIAL NEXT YEAR

- Successful harvest evaluations are a key step toward achieving higher yield potential next year.
- The more information you gather during harvest, the better prepared you will be to select top-performing corn products to suit the agronomic needs of your fields.
- In addition to evaluating product performance on your farm, it is important to monitor yield trial results from your local area.