

HEC Newsletter

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Corn Test Weight and Moisture

Lately, we have been starting to get more and more questions about how the corn is doing. This is actually a little surprising. For the most part, it seems at this point, most farmers are happy to keep corn out of site and out of mind while they are still pursuing harvest of soybeans and sugarbeets. I can't say I blame anyone for that! However, I thought it would be nice to go into the fields and hand shell out some kernels and update everyone how the corn is doing at this point. This is your fair warning... if you wish to keep corn out of site and out of mind for the time being... stop reading here! Furthermore, I wouldn't blame anyone for doing just that. However, for the guys that have been asking... here you go.

Today (11.3.2009) I went into 2 corn test plots where I took 6 hybrids of different maturities and randomly picked 3 ears for each. I hand shelled those ears and had the grain samples evaluated for three things (these are the most popular things that growers are asking about right now). They were evaluated for moisture, test weight, and percent mold damage. Please note that these ears were hand shelled and the moistures listed on the chart are what the moisture tester read. It would be completely appropriate to add approximately 3 points for the hand shelling. Here are the results from my unscientific poll:

Plot West of Hillsboro- Planting Date 5/21/2009					
Hybrid	RM	Trait	Moisture	Test Weight	% Mold Damage
DKC 29-98	79	RR2YGCB	33.2%	48.8	1.8%
DKC30-20	80	VT3	26.0%	47.5	3.3%
DKC33-54	83	RR2	28.2%	47.4	2.0%
DKC35-19	85	RR2YGCB	29.6%	46.1	2.9%
DKC36-34	86	VT3	33.9%	46.3	3.0%
DKC38-89	88	VT3	34.3%	50.5	1.7%
Plot East of Hillsboro- Planting Date 5/19/09					
Hybrid	RM	Trait	Moisture	Test Weight	% Mold Damage
DKC30-20	80	VT3	28.1%	50.8	6.2%
DKC33-54	83	RR2	27.9%	50.3	1.0%
DKC35-19	85	RR2YGCB	29.6%	50.6	0.6%
DKC36-34	86	VT3	32.0%	49.3	0.4%
DKC38-92	88	RR2	34.5%	48.8	6.5%
DKC38-89	88	VT3	35.0%	50	1.7%

All-

I just found this article today. If I would have had it yesterday, I would have put this information in the Newsletter yesterday. This is a great article about the type of mold that

is being found on the ears of corn this year. The major types of ear mold that we have this year are Trichoderma and Cladosporium. These molds have not been associated with mycotoxin issues and actually a lot of this mold flakes off when being handled. This mold can cause damaged kernels and is displayed by the mold that will not flake off the kernel.

Please see this link for more information:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/1030robertsonmunkvold.htm>