

# Manitoba Corn Growers Association, Inc.



## NEWSLETTER

October 2018

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The MCGA Office will be closed November 12th in recognition of Remembrance Day.

### Manitoba Corn Growers Association

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## Harvest Update

According to Manitoba Agriculture, grain corn harvest is approximately 5% complete as of Monday, September 24. The most progress appears to have taken place in the Red River Valley and, specifically, in areas that remained the driest throughout the year. Grain moisture is in the mid 20's, for the most part, and yields are estimated from 80 to 120 bu/acre.

Yield lags are stemming from poor pollination and aborted kernels, both due to high temperatures and dry conditions during pollination and following shortly after. Pollination stage is very sensitive to environmental conditions and with the month of July having exceedingly high temperatures with little to no rain, yield losses were anticipated.

As soils dried out and grain was filling, water and carbohydrate reserves to fill the grain were taken from the plant. This is an adaptation the corn plant has, which enables the crop to live as long as it does and for grain to fill as long as possible, even following a killing frost. This year the plant's reserves were being used prematurely to encourage successful grain fill, but it is

leaving weak stalks that are unable to hold the weight of the corn ears and stand up against strong winds and rains. As a result, this may be another cause for yield lags, because broken plants may be missed by the combine. During harvest, it may be best to lower the header and take as much of the plant as possible, with the hope of picking up leaning and broken plants.

Now is an excellent time to perform yield estimates in the field, especially since the weather is stalling harvest progression. First, determine row width of the crop and measure out the corresponding length of 1/1000th acre, below:

36" row	14'6"
30" row	17'4"
22" row	23'9"
20" row	26'2"
15" row	34'10"

Count ears per 1/1000th acre, record. At random, choose 3 ears and count rows/ear, record. Count kernels/row, record. Now, use formula above to determine yield according to each ear picked. Divide by 3 to get an average yield for that 1/1000th acre.

Cont'd on page 2

## ADVANCE PAYMENTS PROGRAM (APP) UPDATE

There will be staff training on Monday, October 22 to Wednesday, October 24th. Service may be reduced during those three days, but will resume normal hours on October 25th. We apologize in advance for any potential disruptions in service.

Tammy Cote and Rae Jackson have been very busy with the Advance Payments Program. All producers should have repaid their 2017 Cash Advances. It is also a great time to complete and submit your Post-Production paperwork for your 2018 advance. Remember you can also kick off your 2019 Advance with your fall-seeded wheat and rye. As always, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to call the office at 204.745.6661 to speak with Tammy or Rae.



# CropConnect Conference 2019

February 13 & 14

Victoria Inn Hotel and  
Convention Centre  
1808 Wellington Ave.  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

### Important dates to remember:

Sponsorship package preview - Oct. 3  
Sponsorship registration - Oct. 9  
Early-bird tradeshow exhibitor booth registration - Oct. 16  
Early-bird attendee registration opens - Oct. 23  
Swag-bag insert deadline - Jan. 11, 2019

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repeat this process up to 10 times in the field for better accuracy, choosing stops at random. It is best to predetermine when you will take the next yield estimate. For example, every 100 paces, and change directions each time.

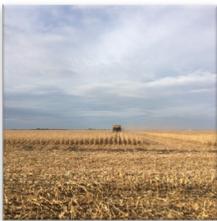
**What are normal dry down rates in corn?** The best dry down rates are in September. Under good weather conditions from the mid to end of September, dry down rates can vary from 0.75 to 1.0% per day (can be greater in some cases when conditions are warm, sunny and dry, or zero on cool, rainy days!). Into early October, dry down ranges from 0.5% to 0.75% per day. In late October, dry down rate will decrease to less than 0.33% per day. And into November, dry down rate will further decrease to 0.15% per day to negligible amounts.

It is important to keep in mind that moisture loss for any particular day may be higher or lower depending on the temperature, relative humidity, sunshine, wind or rain conditions that day. Environmental conditions during the past week have not been conducive to drying grain in the field.

**Potential Yield Loss:** If the crop remains standing in the field, there is the potential for yield loss. The extent of loss will depend on many factors, including stalk strength, ear drop or wildlife damage. Ear drop will vary by hybrid and environmental conditions as well as the amount of grain on the ear (smaller ears should stay attached better than larger ears). Stalk strength should also be considered when evaluating harvest timing (and this includes assessments of stalk rots). Compromised stalk strength could lead to increased stalk breakage, resulting in lost yield.

Taken from <http://manitobacorn.ca/slow-dry-2017-grain-corn-crop/>.

## NEW CROP CORN & SUNFLOWER SAMPLES WANTED!



The Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) is requesting your assistance collecting samples of corn and sunflowers. These samples will be used to maintain the test weight and moisture charts. A wide range of test weights and moisture levels are required to ensure we capture the full range. Please sample your grain prior to drying it.

CGC is requesting a 1 kg sample shipped in plastic bags to retain the moisture. The CGC will pay for any cost associated with shipping this material.

Any questions about shipping contact Kevin Hill at 204-294-6135 or [kevin.hill@grainscanada.gc.ca](mailto:kevin.hill@grainscanada.gc.ca).

### Shipping Address:

Canadian Grain Commission  
Moisture/ TWT Material  
B-10 303 Main St  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3G8

