

Soybean Yield Contest Results

By Kent Hoksbergen, CCA

We would like to thank all the participants of the soybean yield contest this past year. We had a great turnout and would like to share some of the results with you today.



Can you guess who this is?

Our yield checks this fall were harvested between 9/24/2021 to 11/1/2021 and ranged from 71.2 bu to 97.1 bu per acre. The average yield for all the checks was 82.3 bu per acre. This shows the amazing fall that we had to pack yield on our soybeans.

We would like to take some time to look at the different management strategies that this group of growers used this past year. Plant population was one factor that we tracked, but it did not vary much between growers. Interestingly the lowest plant population was also the lowest yielding site in our contest. The average population of our entrees was 135,000 per acre.

Now let's look at planting date and maturity. Planting soybeans early has been a huge emphasis in the industry, due to the fact that soybean yield is increased if we are able to maximize as much of our sunlight and growing season as possible. Out of all our soybean entrees only two of them were **not** planted in April. The soybean maturities ranged from 1.5RM to 2.4 RM. We know that sometimes there can be a discussion on what a full maturity bean is, but for this let's consider anything over a 2.1RM as a full maturity bean. 50% of the beans in our yield contest were full season beans. We assumed it could have been even a higher percentage, but we do think that the early maturity beans were helped with the early August rain, whereas the full season beans were hurt from the dry weather setting in the last half of August.

Row width might be the most unexpected factor we looked at. Only 1/3 of the beans in the contest were planted in less than 30-inch rows with three of the top four bean yields planted in less than a 30-inch row. However, the top placing bean was still planted in a 30-inch row.

Foliar fungicide applied in July or August was another practice we tracked. About 80% of the entrees applied a fungicide at this time, and only one of the non-treated soybeans was in the top ten.

We spent time analyzing varying practices used in the yield contest, but know that tillage, weed control, field location, and soil fertility can be huge factors in yield as well. Also, we know that this is a small sample size, and don't want anyone to make any big changes in management without talking to their trusted adviser. Thanks again to all those who participated this past year's soybean yield contest.