



The DeLong Co., Inc.

CROP PROGRESS REPORT

From Field to Market - Keeping
You Informed All Season Long

August 25, 2026

ILLINOIS - For the week ending August 23, there were 4.3 days suitable for fieldwork statewide. Corn in the dough stage is 90%, equal to last year at this time and 4 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. 47% of corn is dented, 8 percentage points behind last year at this time and 3 percentage points behind the 5-year average. 4% of corn is mature, within 1 percentage point of both last year and the 5-year average. Corn is rated 58% good to excellent, down 2 percentage points from last week. Soybeans setting pods reached 90%, equal to last year at this time and 3 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Soybeans dropping leaves reached 2%, within 1 percentage point of last year at this time and the 5-year average. Soybean condition is rated 59% good to excellent, equal to last week.

WISCONSIN - The USDA recorded 5.7 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending August 23. Corn in the dough stage is 70%, 5 percentage points ahead of last year at this time and 1 percentage point ahead of the 5-year average. 19% of corn is dented, within 2 percentage points of both last year at this time and the 5-year average. Corn condition is rated 65% good to excellent, down 4 percentage points from last week. Soybeans setting pods is 91%, 6 percentage points ahead of last year at this time and 4 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Soybean condition is rated 63% good to excellent, down 3 percentage points from last week.

NEW YORK - USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service has discontinued its weekly New York Crop Progress & Condition report, so standardized figures are not available. Field reports from Cornell Cooperative Extension describe a wide spread in corn maturity this year, a result of the extended planting and silking windows. The earliest-planted, shorter-season acres are moving through dough and into denting, approaching the 32-35% whole-plant dry matter mark that signals silage readiness, while the bulk of the crop remains several weeks out. Sustained heat since silking has accelerated GDD accumulation, pushing dry-down faster than usual. Waterhemp pressure continues to expand regionally, with growers advised that pre-emergent herbicides remain essential since glyphosate is ineffective on this weed. Western bean cutworm activity is tapering off, while fall armyworm is being watched in alfalfa fields.

KANSAS - For the week ending August 23, there were 6 days suitable for fieldwork. Corn in the dough stage is 87%, equal to last year at this time and 2 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. 55% of corn is dented, within 1 percentage point of both last year at this time and the 5-year average. Corn mature is 16%, 6 percentage points ahead of last year at this time and 4 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Corn condition is rated 42% good to excellent, down 5 percentage points from last week. Soybeans setting pods reached 78%, 1 percentage point ahead of last year at this time and 3 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Soybean condition is rated 50% good to excellent, down 6 percentage points from last week.

OHIO - For the week ending August 23, there were 2.1 days suitable for fieldwork statewide. Corn in the dough stage is 87%, 1 percentage point ahead of last year at this time and 6 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. 36% of corn is dented, 4 percentage points ahead of last year at this time and 3 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Corn condition is rated 61% good to excellent, down 1 percentage point from last week. Soybeans setting pods is 93%, 2 percentage points ahead of last year at this time and 4 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Soybean condition is rated 58% good to excellent, down 1 percentage point from last week.

IOWA - The USDA recorded 5.2 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending August 23. Corn in the dough stage is 90%, equal to last year at this time and 4 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. 47% of corn is dented, 5 percentage points ahead of last year at this time and 4 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Corn condition is rated 78% good to excellent, equal to last week. Soybeans setting pods reached 88%, 1 percentage point behind last year at this time and 4 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Soybean condition is rated 77% good to excellent, equal to last week.



from Eric Pille, DeLong Agronomy

Soybean Disease Update

As the soybean crop moves through late reproductive stages, distinguishing between Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS), Red Crown Rot (RCR), and Brown Stem Rot (BSR) becomes critical. All 3 soybean diseases are caused by soil fungi infections early in the growing season, but visual symptoms appear much later into the growing season. What is challenging is that these diseases often produce similar foliar symptoms, but proper diagnosis is essential because management strategies can be different. Below is a guide to help identify, understand, and manage each disease.

Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS)

SDS infection typically occurs early when planting into cool and wet conditions. SDS severity is frequently increased in heavy traffic areas of the field with higher levels of compaction or when soybean cyst nematodes are present in elevated levels.

Key Symptoms:

Leaves-

- Yellow spots or blotches develop between leaf veins.
- Symptoms progress to interveinal chlorosis and necrosis while veins remain green.
- Severely affected leaf tissue may dry up and fall out.
- Leaflets drop from the plant, leaving petioles attached to the stem. This is one of the most distinctive SDS symptoms.



Stems & Roots-

- Split stems will have a white pith.
- Root systems often show discoloration and deterioration.
- Blue-white fungal growth may occasionally be found on roots under favorable conditions.

Management Considerations:

- Select varieties with strong SDS tolerance.
- Rotate SCN resistance gene to PEKING if PI88788 has been used historically
- Improve field drainage and reduce compaction.
- Consider SDS-specific seed treatments.
- Plant high-risk fields later when soils are warmer and drier

See image at top right for SDS

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Brown Stem Rot (BSR)

Brown Stem Rot infection prefers a cool and wet growing season. However, hot and dry conditions into August can intensify disease progression. Soybean is the only host crop for this disease, so crop rotations where soybeans are planted in higher frequency may increase the likelihood of BSR becoming a problem. Elevated levels of soybean cyst nematode can also increase BSR infections.



Key Symptoms:

Leaves -

- Interveinal yellowing and browning similar to SDS.
- Symptoms generally appear around R5 through R7.
- Leaflets typically remain attached to the plant, unlike SDS.

Stems -

- The primary symptom is a brown discoloration of the pith when stems are split.
- Pith discoloration is most noticeable in lower stem sections and around nodes.
- Some infected plants may show internal discoloration without obvious foliar symptoms.

Management Considerations:

- Plant BSR-resistant soybean varieties.
- Plant more non-host crops such as corn and wheat if possible
- Rotate SCN resistance gene to PEKING if PI88788 has been used historically
- Some tillage may be necessary to bury infected residue – BSR inoculum decline is directly related to the rate of soybean residue decomposition

See image at top right for BSR

Red Crown Rot (RCR)

Historically a southern US disease, it has expanded throughout parts of the Midwest and continues to be identified in additional soybean-producing regions. In the fall of 2025, RCR was identified in Columbia county, Wisconsin. *See image at right for RCR.*

Unlike SDS and BSR, Red Crown Rot prefers warm temperatures along with wet soils. Similar to SDS...





from Eric Pille, DeLong Agronomy

RCR pressure is highest in areas with poor drainage and high levels of soil compaction. Soybean Cyst Nematode feeding can increase infection risk. RCR survives in soil for several years once it is introduced into a field. This makes early identification extremely important.

Key Symptoms:

Leaves -

- Interveinal chlorosis and necrosis that closely resemble SDS.
- Symptoms often appear from R3 through R7 growth stages.
- Diseased areas frequently occur in patches within fields.

Stems & Roots -

- Reddish discoloration develops around the stem base near the soil line.
- Small red to reddish-brown fungal structures may be visible on the crown and lower stem.
- Roots become severely rotted, and plants pull easily from the soil.
- Split stems often reveal a gray to dark gray pith.

Management Considerations:

- Rotate away from soybeans for at least two years when practical. Alfalfa is a host crop so will not be a good rotation option.
- Improve drainage and address compacted soils.
- Victrato® seed treatment from Syngenta has shown promising results.
- Clean equipment to reduce movement of infested soil between fields

SDS, BSR, and RCR Yield Impact:

The yield impact is going to depend greatly on the level of severity in the field. Areas with heavy disease severity can have significant reductions in yield due to fewer pods, fewer seeds, and reduced seed weight.

Final Thoughts:

While Sudden Death Syndrome, Red Crown Rot, and Brown Stem Rot can all produce similar foliar symptoms, each disease leaves unique clues that help tell the story. Correct identification today can help reduce disease pressure and protect yield potential in future soybean crops. Questions about soybean disease identification or impact on yield? Contact your local DeLong Agronomist and Let's Talk!



2026 Pro Farmer Crop Tour Overview | Written August 24th, 2026

The 33rd annual Pro Farmer Crop Tour traveled across the Corn Belt August 17–20, providing one of the industry's most closely watched boots-on-the-ground assessments of U.S. corn and soybean production. More than 100 scouts traveled predetermined routes through Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and South Dakota, collecting thousands of field samples along the way.

Because the routes remain relatively consistent from year to year, the Tour provides a useful comparison of current crop potential with what scouts have historically measured in the same areas.

What Did the Tour Find?

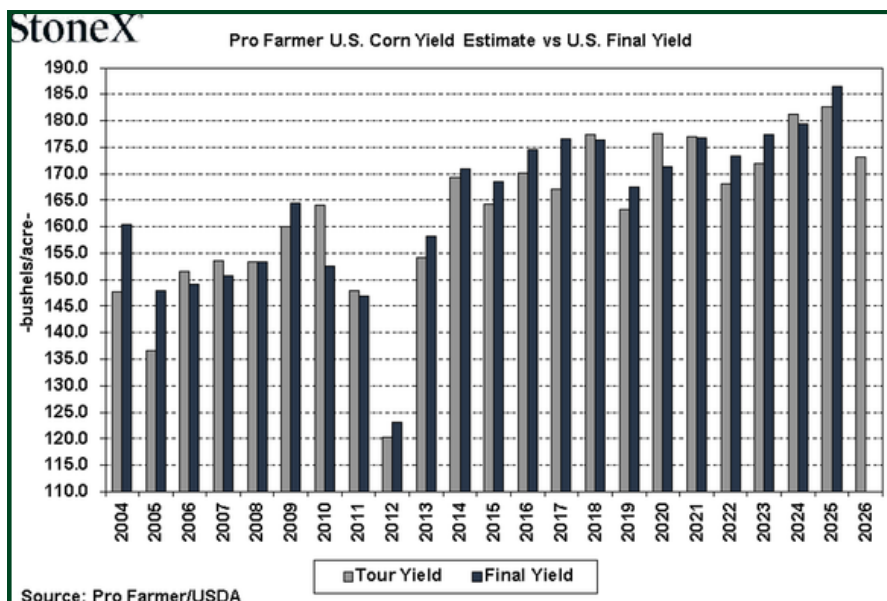
All seven states produced lower corn yield estimates than in 2025. However, with 2025 being an exceptional production year across much of the Corn Belt, comparing 2026 with a longer-term average provides better perspective. Compared with their five-year Crop Tour averages, Iowa came in approximately 2% above and Minnesota approximately 9% above. Ohio, Indiana and South Dakota were relatively close to their longer-term averages, while Nebraska was approximately 5% below and Illinois approximately 6% below.

In other words, Crop Tour did not uncover a poor corn crop everywhere—it found considerable regional variability. Scouts also reported lower ear populations, shorter grain length and inconsistent field performance in a number of areas, suggesting there may be fewer bushels in the fields than appearances alone would indicate.

USDA's August estimate places the national corn yield at 180.7 bushels per acre, resulting in production of approximately 16.013 billion bushels. Pro Farmer estimated 173.2 bushels per acre and production of 15.344 billion bushels. See chart at right. That's a difference of 7.5 bushels per acre... *Continued on next page.*

USDA vs. Pro Farmer

USDA's August estimate places the national corn yield at 180.7 bushels per acre, resulting in production of approximately 16.013 billion bushels. Pro Farmer estimated 173.2 bushels per acre and production of 15.344 billion bushels. See chart at right. That's a difference of 7.5 bushels per acre... *Continued on next page.*



or approximately 669 million bushels of corn. Note Pro Farmer's 173.2 estimate is not an average of the seven state Crop Tour yields. Its national forecast incorporates Tour findings along with crop maturity, crop health, historical trends and expectations for areas outside the Tour's footprint.

We won't know which estimate is closer until harvest provides more information. Perhaps the more useful question is: **What happens if we split the difference?**

What Happens if We Split the Difference?

The final crop doesn't have to reach Pro Farmer's 173.2-bushel estimate for the corn balance sheet to change considerably.

USDA currently projects a 1.653-billion-bushel corn carryout. Holding USDA's current demand assumptions constant, see *chart at right* for what happens as yield moves lower.

This may be the most important takeaway from Crop Tour for the corn market. The market doesn't necessarily have to believe yield will fall all the way to 173.2. Even a move partway toward Pro Farmer's estimate could remove several hundred million bushels from projected production, which helps explain why corn futures have found renewed strength as the market digests Crop Tour results. The question may be less about whether Pro Farmer is exactly right and more about whether USDA's 180.7-bushel yield can be maintained.

A smaller crop would not automatically result in the carryout levels above. If supplies tighten and prices respond, demand can adjust through feed use, exports, ethanol and other categories. Yield is only one side of the balance sheet.

Soybeans Tell a Different Story

USDA currently estimates the national soybean yield at 52.7 bushels per acre and a production of approximately 4.52 billion bushels. See *chart on following page*.

Pro Farmer came in slightly higher at 53.3 bushels per acre and 4.572 billion bushels. If realized, Pro Farmer's yield estimate would represent a new national record.

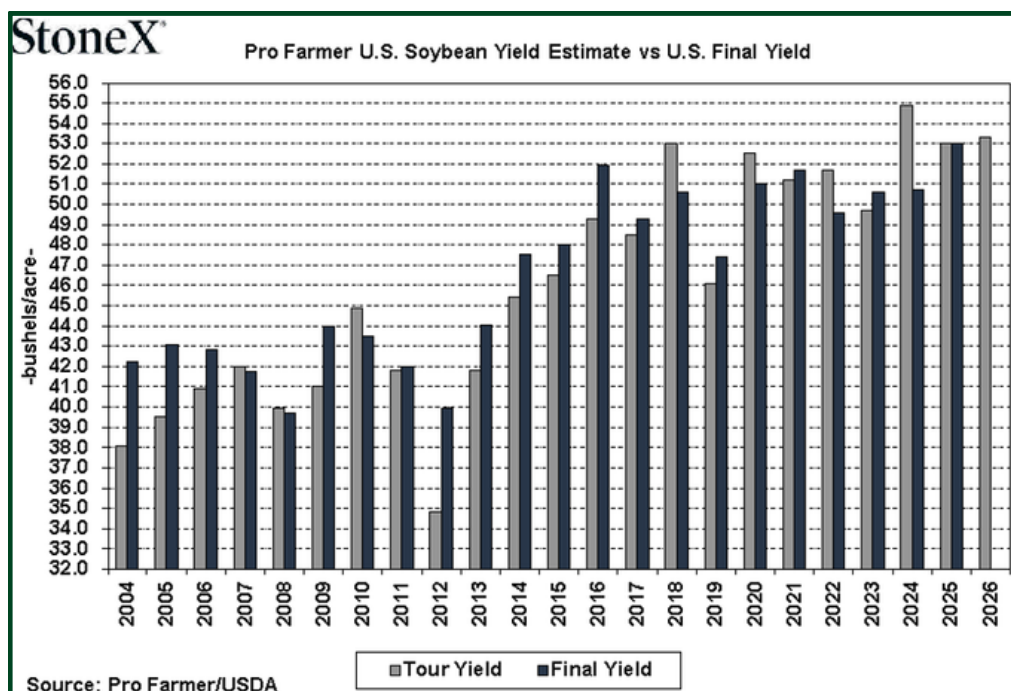
This helps explain why the markets are currently digesting Crop Tour differently, with corn trading higher while soybeans are trending lower.

Soybeans still have more of their story to write. Pod counts indicate crop potential, but final yield remains particularly dependent on late-season weather, plant health and how well pods ultimately fill.

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National Yield	Illustrative Carryout*
180.7 – USDA	1.653 billion bu.
178	~1.414 billion bu.
177	~1.325 billion bu.
176	~1.237 billion bu.
175	~1.148 billion bu.
173.2 – Pro Farmer	~984 million bu.

**Illustrative calculations holding USDA's current demand assumptions constant.*



What Comes Next?

Crop Tour does not settle the debate over the size of the 2026 crop, but the 7.5-bushel gap between USDA and Pro Farmer is difficult to ignore. Future USDA reports, early harvest results, and demand will determine whether corn yield remains near 180.7, moves toward 173.2 or ultimately lands somewhere between the two.

For growers, the takeaway may be less about choosing which forecast to believe and more about understanding how quickly the balance sheet changes as yield expectations move.

The final answer may not be 180.7 or 173.2 bushels per acre on corn but what matters now is what happens if we split the difference?



GROWN CLIMATE SMART

from Ella Thome, GCS

Grown Climate Smart Program Update

Reminder that spring tillage photos **were due August 7th**. If you enrolled spring tillage reduction practices and have not submitted photos, please submit them as soon as possible.

Photos can be submitted via Dropbox on the Grown Climate Smart website at

growableclimatesmart.com.proofs, emailed to David Swanson at david.swanson@growableclimatesmart.com, or mailed to 214 Allen St., Clinton, WI 53525. If you have any questions regarding the program, please reach out to 608-676-3041 for assistance.

Ella Thome | Ella.Thome@delongcompany.com | (608) 676-3041



2026 Crops

Wheat Production & Claims: Don't forget to report your wheat production no later than **September 30th**!

While yields across much of our trade area have been well above insurance guarantees, we are seeing some areas with lower-than-expected production. For the 2026 Crop Year, the Projected Price was set at **\$5.76**. For growers in Iowa, Illinois, and New York, the Harvest Price was finalized at **\$6.52**, which is higher than the Projected Price. This means your revenue guarantee will be recalculated using the higher Harvest Price, increasing your insurance guarantee. For our Wisconsin growers, the Harvest Price will be determined using the August 2026 CBOT September Wheat futures contract. As of August 24th, that harvest average is **\$6.56**.

If you have completed harvest, please contact your DeLco Crop Insurance agent to report your production. P

Bin Measurements & Silage Appraisals: Do you have old crop still in the bins or plan on chopping corn for silage? If so, let us know ASAP! An adjuster will need to measure the bins **BEFORE** any new crop is commingled with old crop. For those chopping, the adjuster will walk you through the process and schedule a time to come out and appraise any acreage that will be taken for silage.

2027 Crops

Changes to SCO & ECO Coverage: Starting with the 2027 crop year, the Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) will see its upper coverage level rise from 86% to 90%. Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO) now fills the gap of 90%, up to 95%, for even deeper protection. Also worth knowing: the subsidy on both SCO and ECO is already up to 80% (from 65% in 2025), and you no longer have to give up your ARC-CO election to buy SCO. Talk to your DCI crop insurance agent before your fall sales closing date to see how this affects your coverage for 2027.

Wheat & Rye: Sales Deadline - 9/30: Are you planning to plant wheat and/or Rye this fall? If so, we need to get your coverage locked in by 9/30! With increased premium supports for the upcoming year, we'll want look at all coverage levels and review SCO/ECO options. 2027 projected price as of August 24th for Winter Wheat and Rye is **\$7.24**.

Corn & Soybeans: Margin Coverage Option (MCO) Sales Deadline - 9/30: MCO continues to be a product we watch for new crop Corn & Soybeans in 2027! MCO provides area-based coverage against an unexpected decrease in operating margin (revenue minus input costs) caused by reduced county yields, reduced commodity prices, increased prices of certain inputs, or any combination of these perils. The MCO endorsement provides an upper-level coverage band of 90 to 95 percent (5%) of the expected crop value. Payments will be made when the harvest margin for the county is lower than the trigger margin due to a decrease in revenue and/or an increase in input costs. 2027 projected prices as of August 24th: Corn - **\$5.06** & Soybeans - **\$11.92**.

Interested in learning more? Contact a DeLco Crop Insurance Agent! *DCI is an equal opportunity provider.*



2026 WI & IL CUSTOMER APPRECIATION EVENT & GOLF OUTING

RSVPS ARE DUE NEXT WEEK! This year we are taking things to the golf course and we would love to see you there. In addition to a great day of food, drinks, and golf on us, we will also have information available on the 45Z Tax Credit and how you can take advantage of it as a grower.

Scan the QR code on your invite or call 608-600-8031 to **RSVP by September 1**. Interested in golfing? Call your event's course and mention you are part of The DeLong Co., Inc. event to reserve a complimentary tee time:

- Central (Sept. 11) - Prairie Woods Golf Course: 608-883-6500
- North (Sept. 15) - Old Hickory Golf Club: 920-887-7179
- West (Sept. 16) - Bass Creek Golf Club: 608-876-6631
- East (Sept. 17) - Evergreen Golf Club: 262-741-6200

We hope to see you there!



We are proud to host our annual Customer Appreciation Days this September and hope you can join us! This year we are having 4 events across the area - select the date and location that works best for you.

Thank you for your business this year!

CHOOSE YOUR DATE AND LOCATION

CENTRAL	Prairie Woods Golf Course Avalon, WI Friday, September 11 th
NORTH	Old Hickory Golf Club Beaver Dam, WI Tuesday, September 15 th
WEST	Bass Creek Golf Club Janesville, WI Wednesday, September 16 th
EAST	Evergreen Golf Club Elkhorn, WI Thursday, September 17 th

**EVENT HOURS**
10am - 3pm

**FOOD SERVED**
beginning 11am

**RSVP BY**
Sept. 1

**SCAN TO RSVP**

AGRICULTURAL WEATHER MAPS

The DeLong Co. website features a variety of useful agricultural weather maps, which are updated daily or weekly.

[Click here to find these and other useful maps under the News & Resources tab at \[delongcompany.com\]\(http://delongcompany.com\)](#)

