



**Highlights of the 2022 McLean County Corn Yield Estimates
Performed by First Mid Ag Services – Bloomington
26th Annual Crop Yield Estimate**

- 1. Scope of Project** – 1,620 samples from 162 locations; Samples taken on managed farms from every township in McLean County by nine First Mid Farm Managers.
- 2. Estimated Average Yield – 209.46 bushels/acre;** This count is just below the *5-year average of 211.1 McLean County Ag Stats yield*. Sample yield estimates ranged from 138 bushels/acre to 276.4 bushels/acre. Compared to 70% in 2020 and 93% in 2021, 65% of the locations returned a yield estimate *over 200* bushels per acre. Majority of the samples used for this estimate were taken the second week of August. Rows around and ear length were found to be slightly above average and ear population was also above average. With the dry conditions we estimated the kernel weight to be a bit lighter than average.

3. First Mid Historical Statistics –

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Ave. Planting Date:	4/19	5/14	4/26	4/25	4/21	4/22	4/29	5/22	5/4	4/30	5/7
Ave. Ear Population (x1,000):	26.19	32.65	32.43	32.67	32.23	31.64	32.66	32.38	30.30	32.99	32.51
Ave. Plant Population (x1,000):	32.5	33.23	33.4	33.51	33.12	32.58	33.63	33.48	31.74	34.08	33.21
Ave. # of Rows/Ear:	14.1	15.9	16.5	16.3	16.5	16.4	16.9	16.4	16.6	16.67	16.81
Ave Kernel Length/Ear:	24.3	32.0	34.8	31.1	34.9	32.2	32.4	31.8	33.6	34.20	33.33
Ave. Estimated Yield:	112.4	192.1	222.6	193.0	219.0	197.3	217.7	197.3	211.7	231.45	209.34
Sample Set Actual Yield:	115.2	199.0	235.2	195.1	230.5	232.4	233.6	212.8	212.9	213.04	-
McLean County Ag Stats. Yield:	109.5	188.6	217.0	199.0	218.1	223.9	229.3	198.8	201.8	205.7	-

4. The 2022 McLean County Yield Story –

Weather: 2022 was a later planting year than the 5-year average. There were planting windows in April but approximately 68% of fields sampled were planted in May. Following planting there was hot and dry spell throughout June where there were highs of 97°F. The June weather helped the plant health but may have hindered the May planted corn. There was a hailstorm on July 24th that was very severe in isolated areas of North-East McLean County. In July, McLean County had good growing weather with temperatures staying in the mid 80's and a few rains. August has been mostly dry with a needed shower August 19th that will help finish the crop out.

Planting Date: Planting dates for the samples taken ranged from April 27th through May 17th with an average planting date of May 7th. When comparing the April planted corn to the May planted corn we estimated no statistical difference in yield, but expect the April planted kernels to gain a little more weight.

Emergence: Due to the majority of the farms getting the crop in with good to superb soil conditions, the emergence was good. Fields planted in April came up more uneven compared to May planted stands, which resulted in ~8% fewer ears per acre. We do not think this equates to less yield compared to May plantings due to a higher expected kernel weight and less tip back in the April planted fields. Final ear populations of ~32,500 ears per acre were recorded. This estimate was a little higher than the 5-year average estimate. The average plants per acre were on average with ~33,200 plants per acre recorded.

Fungicide Application: Each year, we track samples sprayed with fungicide. Application typically occurs during the R1 timeframe between tassel and brown silk. This year, 90% of samples received a fungicide, much greater than the 76% sprayed last year. While pulling checks, disease pressure seemed to be little to none in both sprayed and non-sprayed fields. We saw minimal to no tar spot. A 3.9 bushel advantage is estimated on farms that were sprayed.

Nitrogen: Anhydrous applications were able to be completed either last year or early this spring. There were some N deficiencies noted, but we attributed it more to the lack of water. Firing of lower leaves can be attributed to the long periods of minimal moisture more so than running out of nitrogen. No real issues were noted.

Standability: Plant health was a non-issue throughout most of the season. Our *average stalk quality rating is 9.10* on a scale from 1-10. Some plants had lodged a little and there were a couple of fields that had hail damage. Our lowest estimated yield was a hail-damaged field. As we move towards harvest, stalk qualities should be monitored because Anthracnose and other diseases could still have a negative effect on stalk quality.

Conclusion:

- Overall trendline yield estimated.
- Estimating ~1% below the 5-year average actual McLean County Ag Stats yield (NASS).
- Highly variable throughout the County
- Little to know disease pressure spotted.
- Weather until harvest will play a factor in determining kernel weight.

