

2023 VIRTUAL CROPTOUR

June 30, 2023

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WHITSITT FARMS, LLC

Illinois

- Still no rain!
- No way around it: we have lost substantial corn yields at this point.
- It is demoralizing to say the least!
- Despite the losses, we try to focus on improving our farm. Excavating work, equipment maintenance, and clean-up are how we try to keep busy and deal with these situations.



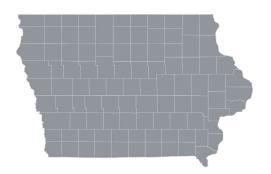




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NORTH AMERICA



GRETTER FARMS

lowa

- Significant rains have found their way across our farm!
- The corn really took off after some fields received over 2" one week ago. More rain fell in the last 36 hours.
- The beans are growing rapidly as well. Sub-soil is still relatively low in places, but these recent rains will help.
- The corn has a great appearance and yield potential is high.





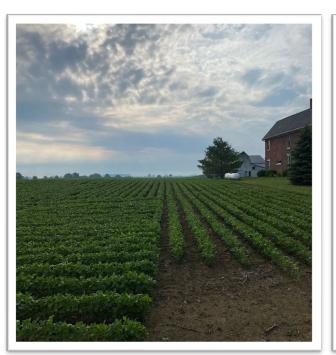
VIRTUAL CROP TOUR



VALLERY FARMS, LLC

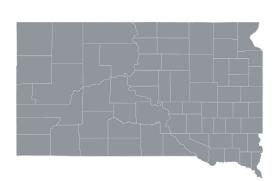
Ohio

- AGRISOMPO
- Supportive growing conditions continue across the farm. We've had 4.4" of rain since June 11.
- Some folks that planted corn in late May are actually struggling with too much moisture!
- Most of the spraying, side-dressing and having have taken place between rains.
- Prospects for strong yields are high!





VIRTUAL CROP TOUR



GREG JANISCH FARMS

South Dakota

- In the two weeks since the last update, we've had 3.5" of rain. That means SMILES in South Dakota!
- The rain was too late to save the spring wheat, but the corn and the beans have new life. We were nearing the point of no return, but full rain gauges have changed that!





AGRISOMPO NORTH AMERICA 2023 IAL CROP TOUR



Closing Comments

Brooks York AVP, Producer Services

First Responders

Admittedly I had never heard the term "derecho" until meteorologists used the name to describe the massive straightline winds that came across lowa a couple of years ago. I assume derechos are not a new phenomenon, but calling these storms by their formal name certainly is relatively new to the common folks in the country.

Yesterday, I received my first-ever "Derecho Warning" from the National Weather Service. The text popped up on my phone just before noon. One look at the radar and things looked as if they were going to get "real" in a hurry.

Now like any person who grew up in the country, no "derecho" was going to stop me from heading back home. I would leave Paxton, Illinois just so I would not get wet walking to the truck, but in no way was this storm going to slow me down as I trekked south.

The sky suddenly turned a brilliant midnight blue color with silvery streaks. It looked different than any storm I had seen. Then, just as quickly, it turned white and gray as massive amounts of rain, hail and wind hit like a linebacker. There were few places to pull over and I felt it would be more dangerous to be stopped on the interstate than continue at a very slow speed. Cross winds at 90 mph made it difficult to stay on the road. Tractor-trailers were slowly tilted and then laid on their sides. Everything seemed to be in slow motion.



Closing Comments

Brooks York AVP, Producer Services

Traffic stopped... for hours. First responders were on the scene within minutes, but the amount of work for police, medical professionals, Illinois Department of Transportation employees, and tow trucks was overwhelming. As soon as the debris from one wreck was cleared and aid was brought to those that were hurt, the helpers would immediately be called to the next. For a few hours, I got to see the heart of the country.

I left a meeting where farmers had been praying for rain. While the rains fell, it came with some devastating wind. The fields of corn that were all around me were suddenly standing at less than a 45-degree angle in many places. Most onlookers simply saw a damaged field. What I saw was different. I saw fewer units of protein in the world's supply chain. I saw fewer dollars in the pocket of a farm family that had spent a lot of money and effort growing the crop. I saw small businesses in rural America that might have fewer sales. I saw fewer dollars donated by farmers to the local 4-H clubs and Little League. All this as a result of 30 minutes of bad weather. The impacts of crop losses are felt far beyond a single farm family.

Suddenly, I realized that crop insurance in America is a lot like those first responders. Crop insurance policies offer certainty that some of the farmer's investment will return to them and ultimately to their communities. Our system is also designed to be expedient. The system of adjusters that crop insurance companies use make quick work of evaluating the damage, and private companies like ASNA are there to quickly pay thousands of claims each year. There's no need for a government legislature to authorize a disaster payment: the crop insurance system was already at work minutes after the storm!



Closing Comments

Brooks York AVP, Producer Services

I am now a believer in "derechos". I am believer that there are still a lot of good folks in this country. I am also a believer that the term "first responders" takes on a broad new meaning. It may be the driver who is first on the scene and who lends a hand. It is undoubtedly those in uniforms that are trained for these situations. It may also be a system of insurance that is unique in the world. While I am not ready to drive through a derecho again soon, sometimes it is a situation like this that makes you realize just how fortunate we are to live in America.



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