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AGRONOMY NEWSLETTER

Ernie Newquist 402-705-0289
NK Agronomist Western Cornbelt

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Corn Replanting Guidelines

Making the decision to replant is generally not an easy one, as growers have to decide if the risks of replanting outweigh the risks of leaving a less than ideal stand of corn. There are several steps to take in order to help make the replant decision a little easier:

Take several stand counts to determine the plants per acre in the field.

If the stand is sparse throughout the field, take several random stand counts over the field to get an average stand count. If the field has both good and poor areas, take several stand counts from both good and poor areas to get an average of both areas, and then determine the percent of the field that has a poor stand. This will give you an idea of the average stand in the poor areas and the total area of the field affected.

Table 1. Relative yield potential of corn by planting date and population

Population (Plants/Acre)	Planting Date				
	April 20– May 5	May 5– 15	May 15–25	May 25– June 5	June 5–15
	Percent Maximum Yield				
45,000	97	93	85	68	52
40,000	99	95	86	69	53
35,000	100	96	87	70	54
30,000	99	95	86	69	53
25,000	95	91	83	67	51
20,000	89	85	77	63	48
15,000	81	78	71	57	44
10,000	71	68	62	50	38

Note: Values based on preliminary Iowa research and modeling; 100% yield potential is estimated to occur with 35,000 plant population and early planting. From: Iowa State University Extension, Corn Field Guide, CSI 001. 2009. In Press.

Equal to 1/1000th
Acre

Row Width (Inches)	Row Length
20	26' 2"
30	17' 5"
36	14' 6"
38	13' 9"

Determine the cause of the poor stand

Take any actions, if needed, to help correct it if you can. There are many factors that can contribute to poor stands, and it is important to not only look at the entire field to get the “big picture”, and also to dig and closely examine plants to determine the cause. Some of the things to look for include:

Weather conditions between planting and emergence, was it too cold or wet after planting. Are there any patterns in the field that would indicate compaction, herbicide injury, etc.? Look at the

plant for any damage from diseases, insect feeding or herbicide injury. Check the planting depth on the corn to determine if it was planted too deep or too shallow and affected the emergence. Look for any other planter related issue that may cause stand issues.

Final Decision

Determine if the expected yield, cost of replanting and risk associated with replanting the corn is more or less than the expected yield, cost and risk associated with keeping the current stand. While the decision to replant is generally not easy, having a good average population from several stand counts of the current stand, along with the information around expected yields from keeping thin stands and the expected yields from replanting can help make that decision easier

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