

This Week in Agriculture:
News That Could Make a Difference: August 24, 2012

- **A delayed reaction to the August 10th USDA report and the subsequent lack of demand rationing pushed soybeans up to record highs, while corn and wheat managed to maintain their recent gains. For the week July wheat gained 9 while December corn added 2. Soybeans were the big winner with November beans gaining 87 cents overall.**
- **Early on in the week forecasts showed Hurricane Isaac possibly working its way into the Corn Belt bringing significant moisture with it. By the end of the week however the forecast shifted the storm further east leaving the parched Western Belt dry again.**
- **All eyes were on this year's Pro Farmer crop tour, with even the major mainstream media sources keeping watch as well. The tour found better than expected yields in parts of Indiana, while overall most yields came in as expected or slightly below. The tour put corn yields at 120.25 bushels to the acre for corn, with a total production of 10.478 billion bushels. This compares to the most recent USDA estimate of a 123.4 bushel to the acre yield and an overall production number of 10.779 bbu.**
- **Right now private production estimates for corn vary by over a billion bushels. Traders are well aware of the last three production loss years. In 1988 final corn production ended up being much larger than the initial USDA August estimate, while in 1983 and 1993 final production numbers came in nearly a billion bushels below the USDA estimate.**
- **Another private virtual tour this week had farmers report their own yields. Yield estimates from that tour put nationwide corn yields at 124.3 bushels to the acre.**
- **Soybean production estimates came in below the USDA's numbers as well with the group projecting a 2.6 billion bushel crop and a yield of 34.8 bushels to the acre. This compares to USDA August numbers of 36.1 bushels per acre and a total production of 2.692 bbu.**
- **As you may have heard Citizens experienced a "challenge" if you will this week, here's the official press release regarding the fire:**

CHARLOTTE – Crews began to rebuild today after a fire caused significant damage to a soybean processing facility on North Cochran Road in Charlotte.

The fire was detected by employees of Citizens, LLC at 7:45 a.m., Thursday morning. The Charlotte Fire Department was notified and responded immediately. They were joined by departments from several surrounding communities. Crews battled the fire for roughly four hours before it was completely extinguished.

"The most important thing is that no employees or emergency responders were injured in the incident," said Robert Mansfield, co-owner of Citizens LLC. "We commend the Charlotte Fire Department and other responding departments for the fast and effective action that saved the structure and much of the equipment in it. We look forward to working with them to determine the cause and to rebuild so we can get back to 100 percent capacity."

The internal working bins, elevation equipment, roof of the structure, electrical equipment and inventory were severely damaged. However, damage to the building structure and other equipment is repairable and clean up and rebuilding efforts are already underway. The remainder of the facility was untouched, and Citizens, LLC will be open for business today and Monday.

The building that was involved in the fire was a cleaning plant for non-GMO soybeans used for domestic and export markets. Equipment in the building included a fanning mill, two color sorters and four belt separators, along with conveyance and elevation equipment.

The cause of the fire has yet to be determined.

- **We have plans in place and our customers will not notice any difference in our ability to handle harvest this year. We can't thank the firefighters and first responders enough for their quick and decisive action. We also appreciate the concern of our customers and those in agriculture and the community that reached out to us. We are truly grateful for the support that has been giving in this challenging time.**

At this point there's still a lot of speculation as to what we're going to see final crop size-wise. This will keep the market and traders on their toes and keep nailing this thing down difficult. Don't hesitate to call if you have any questions, we're here to help.

**All the Best!
Angie Maguire
Citizens LLC**

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