

Midland Research
Grain Pricing and
Forecasts

2023 Central Illinois Crop Tour

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August 5, 2023



CENTRAL ILLINOIS CORN TOUR



Our 2023 Crop Tour again did its traditional Central Illinois crop route as one vehicle proceeded to Morris, SW of Chicago, to begin our field checks. It was the soggiest trip ever experienced by the group.

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This year's first stop was 10 miles south of Mazon on IL 47 in Grundy County to make our first ear, row and kernel counts on 1/1000 of an acre.

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Sample #1



Our first field sample had our highest ear count of 35,000 & a row count of 18.3 for the tour. This field also had solid kernel count of 35.7 on its late dough stage ears. This helped project the highest corn yield for 2023 tour & highest in the past 7 years.

Estimated Yield – 269.79 bu.



Driving thru Pontiac, IL their Civic Pride is revealed in the Public Murals – Worth a Visit when traveling US 66.

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After heavy rains prevented our next field stop in eastern Livingston County on IL 116, Luis Vieira of Connectedfarmer.com & Tony Raia are about to enter our 2nd tour stop west of Pontiac on IL 116.

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This field with late dough ears revealed the mellow soft soil we would experience during the complete crop tour of 2023. No field had any cracks between the rows, but we should have had boot scrapers to clear the mud.

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Sample #2

This field has a solid potential with its kernel length the 2nd highest of the trip at 36.2. However, the ear count slipped to 31 and number of rows dipped to 16.3 around the ear vs Grundy's 35 ears in 30 feet & 18.3 rows around. Solid but not spectacular.

Estimated Yield – 215.7 bu.



We proceeded into Woodford County on IL 116, down I-39 & west 5 miles of El Paso IL on US 24 for our next sample. This field was planted later but had good attributes for a solid yield.



Sample #3

Woodford's corn sample had the longest ear length of 40 kernels, but numerous ears near 32 slipped its average 34.5. The ears were full, but the row count was just 16.3 for 6 ears and there were just an average of 31.5 ears in our 2 rows.

Estimated Yield – 208.4 bu.



We decided to check the bean field across the road. The modest height of the crop revealed a bountiful batch of pods. July's 200-250% of normal rainfall & early planting jumped this year's pod set. Question: Will August weather keep them to harvest.

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After a swing around Bloomington , we took US 51 south to Heyworth for our SC. McLean sample. This field was 3 miles east on US 136 at a small bin site. Poor pollination with numerous blanks & nubbins hurt its ear count.

Sample #4



This year's SC McLean ear population was just 26,000, tied for the lowest of the tour. However, this field's row count of 14.7, lowest of trip with 2 ears of just 12 rows and its average length of 35.7 kernels produced our 2nd lowest yield calculation of the tour.

Estimated Yield – 160.5 bu.

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The tour's next corn field was on County RD 10 – 4 mile west of Parnell in NE Dewitt County. Its mixed color seems to be from weed chemical that was applied to the ditch around a small electrical substation. This county continued its tradition of being a top 2 producer on this tour for 3 out of last 4 years.



Sample #5

Dewitt's corn stop was the 2nd highest of the tour. This field 34,000 ear count was also 2nd highest of the trip while the rows averaged 17 around (3rd highest for the tour). This field's corn length was 34.8 because of 2 ears being below 32 kernels. This is also the fifth highest county yield for our C. IL tour in past 4 years.

Estimated Yield – 238.0 bu.



IL's clean green lawn continued out our windows with limited weeds or volunteer corn. This field's prospects remain good with both pods and blossoms. Another couple of August rains should make a very good crop.



Traveling NE on IL 54 back into McLean County, this early dent corn field was likely planted in April. This year's low subsoil moisture & dry May and June rainfall impacted this crop's ears.

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Sample #6



Our stop 5 miles north of Bellflower in SE McLean County on IL 54 was the lowest ear length of 31.2 kernels because heavy tip-backing. The rows around averaged just 16, but its ear count tied for lowest with the other McLean County field at 26,000. This field was our lowest yield of 2023's trip.

Estimated Yield – 153.9 bu.



This 1904 J.I. Case Steam Engine Tractor in Gibson City's City Park on IL 54 powered many threshing machines. This engine didn't roll across many fields in its day, thou.

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Proceeding northeast on US 54 to our next tour stop in Ford County, 5 miles south of Melvin. After some poor yields in this county over the years, this year's July rains has corn's prospects the highest since 2016.

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Sample #7



With timely rainfall on this later planted field than our previous stop, Ford County's 2023 field sample had a solid 31,000 ear population & the second highest row count of 17.3 for the tour. This field's solid ear length of 34.3 kernels, helped calculate the strongest Ford county yield for the current tour since 2016.

Estimated Yield – 217.2 bu.

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Rains returned as we continuing north on IL 54 & 49 on our way to our final sample. Passing thru Onarga, the day's ongoing heavy downpour prompted the local authority to signal deep water was on their main street.

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After continuing north on IL 49, we had to back track to US 45 and IL 116 to drive west to avoid the heavy rain and get our Iroquois County corn sample. Despite the rainy conditions, everyone felt the event provided some solid information about IL's corn prospects.

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Sample #8

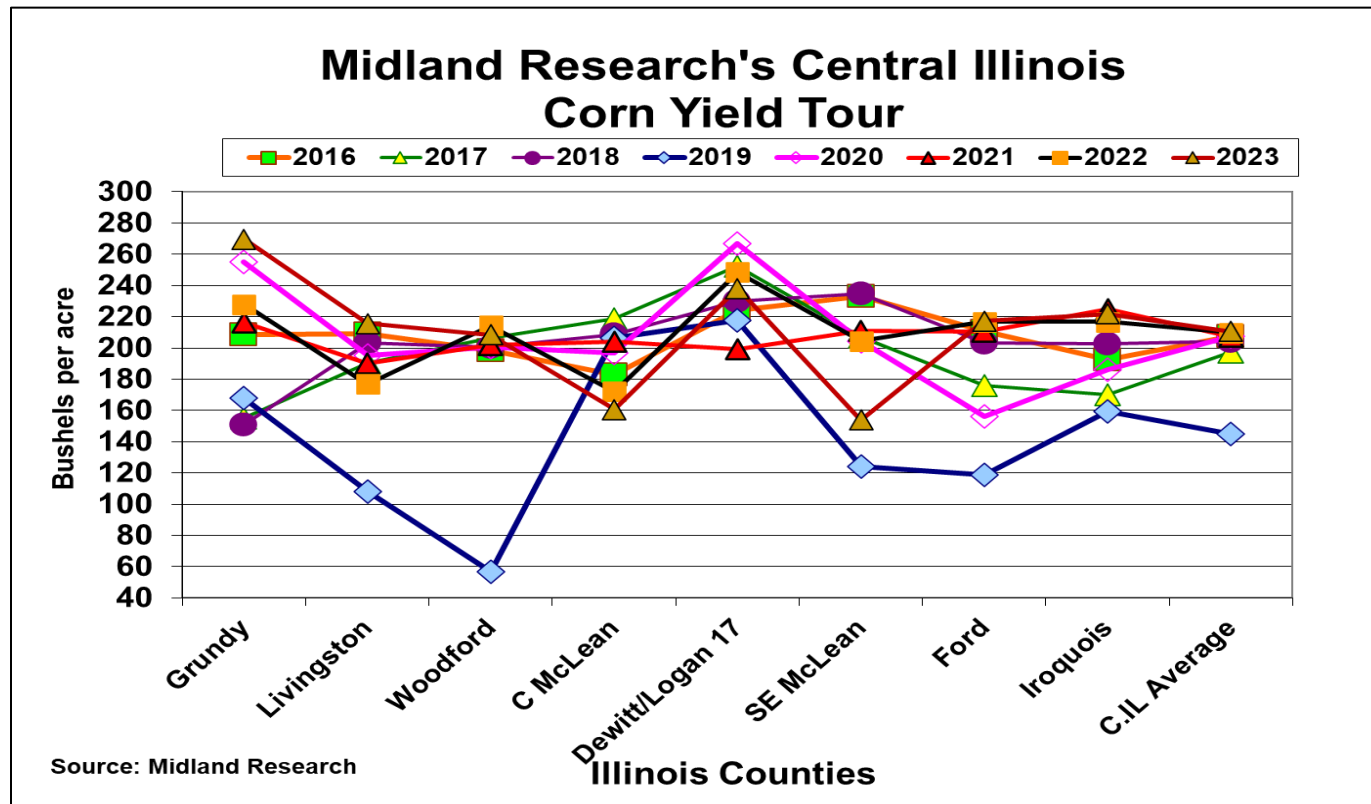
After some up & down corn yields since 2016, this year's Iroquois field 5 Miles west of I-57 on IL 116 had the 3rd highest yield of the day. This sample had a modest 29,000 ear count, but it had highest kernel length of 37.8 and 2nd highest average row count of 17.3 for the trip. This calculated to the 2nd highest county yield vs 2021's 225.

Estimated Yield – 221.1 bu.



This view out our windows sometimes on both sides of the road suggests that June's USDA Illinois 10 million bean plantings were a clean sea of green. We didn't travel S. IL's wheat area, but some additional double crop bean plantings might appear on USDA's resurvey released in September this year.

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This year's one day Central Illinois crop tour took samples from the 7 major counties that surround Bloomington, IL. 2023's average corn yield rose to 210.6 bu, the highest level since the current tour version began in 2016. This year's 0.9 bu advance is a positive for solid potential. However, it probably doesn't signal a bin-buster for the area either unless crop conditions are extremely good until harvest.

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Central Illinois 2016-2023 Corn Yield Results vs USDA Yields

Bushels per acre	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2022</u>
Crop Tour's Average Corn Yield	207.5	201.2	204.3	144.8	207.6	207.3	209.7	210.6
Illinois August Corn Yield	200.0	188.0	207.0	181.0	207.0	214.0	203.0	
Illinois Final Corn Yield	197.0	201.0	210.0	181.0	191.0	202.0	214.0	206.0
Midland Research's IL August Corn Yield Estimate								

Because of the relative importance our 7 tour counties to Illinois' past August average yield, a 5-bushel lower state yield is our estimate. **Using current ratings & acreage levels along with past Major states' yields, our US corn yield is 175.0 bu. this month.**

(one last look at Illinois soybean yield potential next on our final tour slide)

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Given the importance of August weather to soybean yields, we don't make detailed field checks this month. However, C. IL's green carpet look of 80-85% suggests a potential 62 bu plus IL yield given the numerous pods. August weather remains important. **Our US estimate is 51 bu vs 2022's 49.5 bu level.**

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