



### **Despite Challenges, Many U.S. Soybean Growers Still Anticipate Average Yields**

*St. Louis, MO, September 30, 2019*—Despite delayed planting dates due to wet weather across much of the country, early reports from some U.S. soybean growers are optimistic. Many in the country’s various growing regions are hoping for an average—or slightly above average—crop yield.

The U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) has been tracking the progress of the 2019 soybean crop with reports from growers whose input provides an overview of the U.S. growing season’s challenges and expectations. By offering this wide range of perspectives, USSEC helps keep its partners and overseas importers up to date.

Late planting dates have resulted in delayed harvest times. For example, during the final week of September, Scott Sinner of SB&B Foods, Inc. in Casselton, **North Dakota**, noted that the soybean crop was still continuing to develop. “There have been a few farmers able to start harvest on some early planted fields, but most farmers are still one to two weeks away from starting. Early yields have been above average and quality appears to be good, but it is very

early.” Sinner adds that currently there is no frost in the weather forecast, so growers remain hopeful that all fields will mature as needed.

Tim Daley of Cedar Falls, **Iowa**-based Stonebridge, Ltd. is among those who report progress for soybean crops in the company’s 15-state production area. “Harvest will begin once we dry out. It will be a long harvest season,” he says. “Many of the beans are turning in **Iowa, Northern Illinois, South Central Minnesota** and **Michigan**. Plant height is more knee-high than waist-high. So that being said, we will not know what we have until the combines begin harvesting.”

As of the third week of September Ray Gaesser of Gasser Farms in Corning, **Iowa**, reports, “There are a few soybeans in Iowa ready for harvest, but most are one to five weeks from being ready. Late June/July planted soybeans may not be harvested until late October.” Earlier in the planting season, Gaesser reported that while soybeans were planted on his own farm in **Southwest Iowa** by May 16, 60 percent of the state’s soybeans were planted after June 6.

Craig Tomera, Identity Preserved Crop Specialist of Grain Millers based in Eden Prairie, **Minnesota**, reports on the crop condition of non-GMO and organic soybeans in their ten-state growing area. The region includes **Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin**. Overall, more than half of this year’s soybean crop (51.6 percent) is in good-to-excellent condition. At the same time last year, 67 percent of the crop condition was good-to-excellent.

“The soybean crop also recorded a small improvement in crop conditions since our last report. Rainfall was received where needed to help continue pod fill, and while some areas received excessive rainfall, it does not appear to have had any serious harmful effects to the soybean crop at this time. Temperatures have also warmed up over the last seven to ten days, helping soybeans to advance in development and, in some areas, begin to mature,” Tomera says.

Gene Leach, Crop Production Specialist in Fargo, North Dakota, reports on the soybean

crops of Healthy Food Ingredients' contracted growers. "The maturity of the 2019 soybean crop in **North Dakota** and the northern two-thirds of **Minnesota** is approximately two weeks behind average, as it has been the entire growing season. The week of September 16 was abnormally warm with abundant sunshine. These conditions hastened maturity and currently most acres are now past the threat of a premature killing frost."

Andy Bensed of AB Services in Dallas, Wisconsin, weighed in during the third week of September, noting that, "Soybean crops in **Northwest Wisconsin** look significantly different than just a month earlier. Most fields have some degree of leaf drop and most pods continue to fill nicely. The earliest varieties will be ready to combine within the next 10 days."

Anticipated 2019 crop yields vary from region to region, depending upon planting dates and current crop conditions. Tim Daley of Stonebridge, Ltd., says, "We are going to have a crop, but it will not be a bin-buster. We will see a lot of the mid '30s to mid 40's bushel yields. Yields in **Western Iowa** will be better. **Nebraska** soybeans, if they get it harvested, will be good yields, but still down from 70 bushels/acre growers are used to. Harvest may be as long as six weeks for soybeans if the weather cooperates. Many areas are still two weeks to a month from full maturity, so the frost needs to hold off until mid-October to be out of danger."

Andy Bensed estimates that soybean crops in **Northwest Wisconsin** have benefited much from adequate moisture and an extended grain-filling period that has allowed seed size to enlarge. "Yields look to be average or slightly above at this point on fields that were planted timely. Late-planted fields will struggle to yield well, and there are plenty of those."

Gene Leach notes that only one food grade soybean field in his region had been harvested by September 24, with the grower estimating the yield will be slightly above average, with seed size about average for the variety. Leach adds that growers in general have experienced a longer-than-average growing season, and are consequently very pleased, despite the fact that some areas

are very wet. “Nevertheless, food grade soybean growers have faced these challenges in the past and have generally done a good job at circumventing adversity.”

To learn more about the U.S. commodity soybean crop, visit the USSEC website at [www.ussec.org](http://www.ussec.org).

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***About the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC):** The U.S. Soybean Export Council is a farmer-owned, non-profit entity 100% devoted to improving the value of and export demand for U.S. soy. It operates internationally, connecting overseas importers with opportunities to improve human nutrition, livestock production and aquaculture. USSEC accomplishes its mission with a science-based technical foundation and a global network of partnerships, including soybean growers, reporters, agribusiness and agricultural organizations, researchers and government agencies.*



**Figure 1 Ray Gaesser Adams County Iowa (southwest Iowa)**



**Figure 2 Clark County Ohio**



**Figure 3 Northwest Wisconsin**



**Figure 4** *Food grade soybeans in Ottertail County Minnesota*



**Figure 5** *A nearly ready to harvest food grade soybean field in Becker County Minnesota*



Figure 7 High Protein Soybean Iowa



Figure 8 Floyd County Iowa