



# LaSalle County Farm Bureau®

## Crop Report (Monday May 11, through Sunday, May 17, 2020)

**Dave Hall-Serena-**As we start the Crop Watchers' report this year, it seems like a repeat of last year in the short term. We received weekly rainfall of 3.7 inches, just as things were drying out enough to head back out to the fields. Conditions have been cold and wet, and corn plants have been shivering since germination in the cool soils as they wait for more than two days in a row of 70-plus air temperatures. Most of the corn in the area was planted either the last week of April or the second week of May. April planted corn is now emerged from the ground and may have even survived a frost or two, as the plant's growing point remains below ground until the plant has reached growth stage V4 (four visible leaves on the plant). The May planted corn is close to emergence but may need coaxed by the sharp tines of a rotary hoe implement if the ground hardens with a top crust before the plants can emerge in the coming days.

Some soybeans have been planted in the area, but there are many more bean fields unplanted than planted to date. Coronavirus has changed things in farming just as in all other walks of life. Commodity prices are currently below cost of production for most producers, especially livestock. Animals close to market weight are flooding the local processors as the large processors shut down here and there for COVID outbreaks within their workforces. At the same time, we see less meat on the shelves in grocery stores and food pantries. It makes me wonder a bit about trusting a large portion of our food supply chain to just a few large processors. Thanks to the local processors that are stepping up and working overtime to help fill the current gap in the supply chain.

This is my second year as a Crop Watcher. My Dad, brother and I raise corn and soybeans in Serena and Freedom townships. I also work as a civil engineer in Ottawa, and other free time is enjoyed with by beautiful wife and rambunctious 3 and 4-year-old boys.

**Barry Beetz, Mendota-** Hey everyone, my name is Barry Beetz and I am going to report to you about the crops and weather from the Mendota area. I farm with my extended family; we grow corn, soybeans, and seed corn. We also have a grain elevator with chemical and fertilizer sales and application services. Each of us has our part we do, for example, I work on planting the corn and seed corn in the spring, then handle detasselling in the summer. At harvest I run a

seed corn picker, combine, or am running the elevator, whatever is needed. During the winter I work at the elevator and start planning for the next crop.

It has certainly been a strange year for everyone. I hope you all are doing well and staying healthy. As for the crops, all the corn is planted and about half of the soybeans and seed corn is planted. We then ran into a stretch of rain this past week which dropped 3.5 inches in a few days. It brings back nightmares of spring 2019, but we are only in mid-May and should get the weather to finish planting. Thanks for reading, and I will keep you posted. Stay safe.

**David Myer, Marseilles-** I welcome back our readers of the reports on crop conditions and progress from Rutland Township where I live, and my farm operation is based from. 2020 has started out to be quite the year and now excessive rain just like last year. I recorded 3.1" of rain this past week through Tuesday morning. Ponding is becoming the norm !!

Corn planting is at various stages as some got planted over 3 weeks ago and finally emerged, and many acres last week but still more to go and replant ?? Soybean planting is limited though I tried early planting this year in April, so we will wait and see how that works out. Wheat acres are very few and lagging in crop stage with cooler temps and some never survived the excessive fall moisture. Hay fields look good but also lagging behind a couple of weeks. As most probably know due to Covid19 grain and livestock prices have suffered greatly though bean demand is still there not like the corn ethanol demand which almost dried up but is picking up. Even us as farmers are limited to socializing even with suppliers, thank goodness for electronic communication or not at times. Please stay safe and healthy as we hope to see many of our friends and families again this summer.

**Bill Gray, Tonica/Lostant** - Bill Gray, Tonica - Hi, our farm operation is located in the southwest part of LaSalle County near Tonica. I raise corn and soybeans with help from my wife Tina and my sons. Last week I received 2.4" of rain. A lot of the corn in my area has been planted & several farmers have finished up. Some early planted corn was damaged by frost and should recover. After last week's rain some areas have standing water and may need to be replanted if they dry out in time. Some soybeans were also planted early and had already emerged when we received the last frost. Areas of those fields and in some cases the whole field will need to be replanted. There are several soybean fields yet to be planted. Up until the middle of last week when the rain started, there was planting being done and some fields were being sprayed with herbicide. So far, we're off to a much better start than last year and hopefully we will be able to finish in a timely fashion. Have a good week & be safe!

**Ken Bernard, Grand Ridge-** Welcome to another year of crop watchers!

As you may already know I farm with my brother and Dad in the Grand Ridge area. This year we got some more help with my son moving home and taking over the small Purebred Hereford Cow/calf operation.

He also has been a big help planting crops this spring. We grow corn, soybeans, wheat and have some hay for the cattle. As you know this spring started a lot earlier than last year and more normal, but in the last 2 weeks has turned to becoming very wet like last year. Not to mention everything else going on in our world today!! We have all the soybeans planted and 80 % of the

corn planted. The beans have emerged and so has the first planted corn. The wheat is a little thin in spots, but we decided to keep it to harvest. Next project is cutting first crop of hay, with this wet ground and weather is a challenge again.

This last week we received 2.5" of rain. More than what we needed to get corn and beans emerged. Now there is a lot of standing water and those spots will need to be replanted.

Good to be back again this year and please be safe and stay healthy!

**Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland**- Hello everyone another crop report for the 2020 season from the southern tip of LaSalle County. I am Geoffrey Janssen and I live just outside of Rutland in Groveland Township in the very southern end of LaSalle County. I am a grain farmer raising corn and soybeans. The spring is shaping up to be a rather eventful one again. Every year is a little different. So far this spring we have had snow, frost, some hail and now we're having some heavy rain. I do have to report 5.5 in of rain during the past week. The earliest planted corn is up and looking pretty good. This last rain event did lead to some ponding so there will probably be some replanting. Soybeans are going in, still a varying amount of acreage to be planted yet, certain areas are definitely ahead of others. Hopefully we start to see some more warmer and drier weather in the near future.

Rainfall:

Dave Hall	3.7"
Barry Beetz	3.5"
David Myer	3.1"
Bill Gray	2.4"
Ken Bernard	2.5"
Geoffrey Janssen	5.5"



**Crop Report (Monday May 18, through Sunday, May 24, 2020)**

**Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau**

**Dave Hall-Serena**-Some good drying weather but there are a lot of ponded fields around. Pop up showers and thunderstorms have brought 0.45 inches of rain for the week. Activities this week included mowing ditches and applying post-emerge herbicide to corn fields and pre application to soybean fields yet to be planted. There are still some corn acres and many acres of soybeans to plant. Hopefully, weather will cooperate. Stay safe out there.

**Barry Beetz, Mendota**- No report this week.

**David Myer, Marseilles**-No report this week.

**Bill Gray, Tonica/Lostant** - Last week I received 1.2" of rain. No field work was done last week. Most of the corn in my area that has been planted is either up and 4-5" tall or you are just able to see the rows if it hasn't been flooded out. Several fields still need to be planted.

Some fields of soybeans have emerged and look good if they were not damaged by the last frost that we had. There are planted fields with standing water in them that will most likely need to be replanted in those spots. There are a lot of soybean fields that remain to be planted and some are starting to look pretty green with weeds if they haven't been worked or sprayed with a herbicide yet.

I did manage to get about half of my garden planted even though it sure was not under the best conditions. I was even able to get away and catch several nice blue gills that made for a good Memorial Day fish fry and probably enough for a couple more.

Congratulations to all area graduates! Good luck in the future.

Have a great week and be safe.

**Ken Bernard, Grand Ridge**- For the week we received .5" of rain. Have not been back in the field for tillage work or planting. We did cut our rye and baled it in round bales wet and wrapped them in plastic to make baleage or haylage. First planted corn and beans are looking a little better now with some heat. Now we need some dry weather to get the rest of the planting and spraying done. This last week of May does not look very dry. It is looking like 2019 all over again. Hope everyone had a wonderful Memorial Day!

**Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland**- Well another week of not any fieldwork here in the southern part of the county. We received about nine-tenths of an inch of rain over several small rain events. Crops that have been planted about a month are looking decent. More corn is starting emergence. Beans planted 6 weeks ago are barely emerging so it will be one of those interesting Springs again.

Rainfall:

Dave Hall                    0.45"

Barry Beetz

David Myer

Bill Gray                    1.2"

Ken Bernard                .5"

Geoffrey Janssen          .9"



**Crop Report (Monday May 25, through Sunday, May 31, 2020)**

**Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau**

**David Hall, Serena-** Hello summer! We had some pop-up storms throughout the week but weekly rainfall only totaled 0.4 inches. In-between raindrops, we had enough dry weather to get quite a bit of field work done. Area activities this week included hauling grain to town, mowing ditches, cutting hay, planting remaining corn and a whole lot of soybeans, re-planting drown-outs in wet holes and applying herbicide.

Corn fields vary in condition and height, from just planted to approximately 6" tall. Stands are a bit uneven in some fields due to cold weather early on and excess moisture we received the last couple weeks. Corn will start receiving nitrogen application via side-dressing very soon for a nutrient boost.

Hopefully as area businesses start to re-open from the virus shutdown, we can all return to normalcy with the new twist of wearing these stylish masks. Stay safe everyone!

**Barry Beetz, Mendota-** No report this week.

**David Myer, Marseilles-** Dry weather and warm temps are just what the doctor ordered for the crops, planting got back to full speed ahead as we finished the corn planting and got back to planting beans. For the week we received only .25" of rain. Corn emergence is down to about 7 days with warmer soils instead of 3 weeks if it emerged. Still corn replanting to get finished up, looks like soybeans are hardier seeds than corn this year. Post corn spraying going on and corn nitrogen side dressing right behind. The Wheat has headed out and received its Fungicide spray to provide better quality heads and kernels at harvest. Hay cutting and baking is in almost full swing as the weather has cooperated thus far. Grain hauling and cleaning out the bins a top priority not because of price but the river system shuts down later this month for dam rebuilding on the Illinois River. And yes we still are social distancing out at the farm as I'm not frequenting towns unless a parts run or groceries. Hope to see this in The Times but too much Covid 19 news yet to report and now the rallies in the cities. Please let's get life back on a better track probably not like we were used to.

**Bill Gray, Tonica/Lostant -** Last week I received 1.2" of rain. Not much farming activity took place in my area last week until late Saturday as I did see a sprayer going and one person starting to work some ground. The corn fields in my area are looking better as they get taller. There are still areas that need to be replanted but many are still too wet. Some whole fields of corn still need to be planted yet also There are still several fields of soybeans that need to be planted yet. Some early planted fields that didn't get hit by the last frost look pretty good. Have a good week and be safe.

**Ken Bernard, Grand Ridge-** For the week received only .25" We were able to get a lot of field work done this week. Spraying corn, put nitrogen on the corn with side dress machine. None of our first planted corn had any nitrogen on , so that was good to get done.

We were able to get most of corn planted by Sunday night and also got most of the beans planted too. Please be careful and safe!

That is all for this week.

**Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland-** no report this week.

Rainfall:

David Hall                    0.4"

Barry Beetz

David Myer                    .23"

Bill Gray                     1.2"

Ken Bernard                 .25"

Geoffrey Janssen



**Crop Report (Monday June 1, through Sunday, June 7, 2020)**  
**Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau**

**David Hall, Serena-** Beautiful weather has been the theme of the week. We received no rainfall and most fields have finally dried up enough to finish up corn and soybean planting, as well as re-planting wet holes. Other activities in the area included side-dressing nitrogen on cornfields, cutting hay, mowing ditches and cleaning up spring equipment.

The federal courts threw farmers a curve-ball on Wednesday when they pulled federal EPA registration on over-the-top dicamba herbicide products. This herbicide was planning to be sprayed on soybeans in the next two weeks. Illinois Department of Ag at this point will not allow the herbicide to be sprayed without a valid federal registration. If this is not resolved by June 20th, the product will not be able to be applied in Illinois. The reason is that hotter weather can cause temperature inversions which allow the product to drift to adjacent land where it could damage other crops. Talk about confusion and frustration for both farmers and commercial applicators.

Commodity markets saw a modest rally throughout the week, but corn prices are still below cost of production for most area farmers. What a wild year so far. Stay safe and healthy!

**Barry Beetz, Mendota-** This past week we had no rain. This allowed everybody to get the last of their soybeans planted. We also finished seed corn. A lot of producers had the opportunity to patch in the drowned out spots in the commercial corn. It was probably the first time that those patches were dry in a month. The corn and soybeans sure look nice. We have had a small rally in the commodity prices, which helps a little. Deliveries of grain continue until the river terminals close because of lock repairs. The forecast has a good chance of rain, which will be welcomed. The crops love the heat and sun and are certainly not lacking for water for the time being. It looks like we could have a good crop, as of now.

**David Myer, Marseilles-** This past week planters were seen running all directions replanting corn whether just patching in thin spots, drowned out areas and even whole fields and many just decided the economics just aren't there this year. Soybean planting is wrapped up until after the Wheat is harvested and straw baled. Post spraying on corn and early planted beans was trying to progress but wind speeds got too high at times and then a court ruling put spraying Dicamba products on soybeans was halted until another court gave farmers the opportunity to spray with the products you have already in hand. We will cautiously watch how this ruling plays out going forward. Hay making was ideal with good quality but still more to do. Grain hauling is top priority if we want the grain headed down the Illinois River. Otherwise after June 15 that's not an option and then the basis gets raised 35 cents which means less income and isn't that the story of this year Only recorded about 0.1" this week but waiting to see if any hurricane remnants help recharge the soils.

**Bill Gray, Tonica/Lostant** - Last week I received 0.3" of rain.

It looks like corn planting has wrapped up and some replanting of wet spots got done in my area. Sprayers have been applying herbicide and it won't be long until some fields are knee high. Soybean planting is just about finished in my area and some early planted soybeans have been sprayed with herbicide. Last week I saw hay fields being cut and baled. It sure smelled good! We're getting mowers ready and will be mowing a few roadside ditches soon to control weeds. It's nice that the crops are getting big enough that there is a place for wildlife to go. Have a good week & be safe.

**Ken Bernard, Grand Ridge-**

**Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland-** Well another week no precipitation to report but a lot of field work. Corn and soybean planting seems to be wrapping up. There were a lot of wet areas had to be replanted. Crops are responding to the heat.

Rainfall:

David Hall	0.0"
Barry Beetz	0.0"
David Myer	0.1"
Bill Gray	0.3"
Ken Bernard	
Geoffrey Janssen	0.0"

**Crop Report (Monday June 8, through Sunday, June 14, 2020)**  
**Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau**

**David Hall, Serena-** We received 0.4 inches of rain and a lot of wind from hurricane remnants early in the week. We probably could have used an inch of rain, but what we received was enough to bring up the late planted soybeans. Activities for the week included side-dressing nitrogen on corn, cutting hay and spraying herbicide.

For now, it appears that USEPA is allowing farmers to spray existing stock of over-the-top dicamba herbicide and Illinois Department of Ag has extended the spray deadline to June 25 in the state. It sounds like the plaintiff of the federal lawsuit is targeting more ag herbicides. Stay tuned...

My family and I took a weekend vacation to the peninsula east of Green Bay known as Door County, Wisconsin. The amount of hay fields, wheat and small grains was impressive as soon as you got away from the shore and tourist areas. There were some late beans being planted with drills which may have been rotating out of a hay crop. Most every hayfield was being cut or baled during our trip. What beautiful countryside.

Unfortunately, this year's LaSalle County 4H and Junior Fair and Illinois State Fair are the latest victims of the pandemic. Hopefully, some activities can be moved online. Take care and be safe out there.

**Barry Beetz, Mendota-** This past week we had 7 tenths in the Mendota area. Pretty much a perfect rain. The crops are really growing fast. Most growers have their corn sprayed and are working on the soybeans, we are also mowing road ditches and baling hay. The last fields of seed corn have been planted. They were a different deal where they had to be time isolated as well as physically isolated from any other corn to prevent other pollen from getting into the seed corn. The grain markets had a little bump in price this past week, let's hope it continues. However, the crop conditions in this area seems to be good to excellent, so if the rest of the Midwest is similar to that, we will have a large crop on our hands.

**David Myer, Marseilles-** We prepared for the remnants of the hurricane with lots of rain predicted and only received a 1/4" barely with a couple of days of excessive winds. Replanting has finally ended though there are spots in the fields that will end up growing a healthy crop of weeds instead as it just got too late to plant. Corn post emergence spraying is done as well as the side dressing of nitrogen. Many soybean fields have received their dicamba application while the air temps were almost ideal and the window of application closes. Beans look much better than corn this year as it seems the soybean seeds had better cold germination than corn. 1st crop hay is done though the fields have suffered from the weather extremes the past couple of years. Wheat still 3-4 weeks from harvest and looks good, sure hope the quality meets the specs for the new mill in Mendota as it's our only market this year. We have lots of paperwork to prepare for the Farm Service Agency for various programs, due to COVID 19 restrictions we must do more on our end without in person office appointments. And yes, we

need a nice general rain as I seen corn starting to roll up protecting itself as some problem areas will show up first.

**Bill Gray, Tonica/Lostant** - This last week I received a ½ inch of rain. Most fields of corn are knee high and looking good. There are a few late planted fields that are only 8-10 inches tall but not very many. Several drowned-out areas in some fields that were replanted are up and growing now. There were still a few corn fields being sprayed with herbicide.

Soybean planting was almost done last week for most farmers in my area and most fields have emerged and look good. Some early planted fields are 8-10 inches tall. Many are ready to be sprayed with herbicide also.

I have been seeing fawns in the area and been getting reports from others that many have been born. Geese and ducks are coming off nests with little ones also. I have not seen any young pheasants or quail yet but I'm hoping there are a few around. It has been pretty good weather this year for the local wildlife.

Have a good week & be safe.

**Ken Bernard, Grand Ridge**- For the week we received .3" of rain. A little more would have been nice but that was better than nothing. A bunch of jobs are going on now, side dressing nitrogen on the corn, spraying both corn and beans, hauling corn, mowing roads, and mowing hay to bale. Corn is starting to show a little stress from hot weather and the roots are not growing downward for moisture fast enough. Looks like there is an opportunity for some rain this Father's Day Weekend. Found some army worm damage in the wheat field, so that will have to be sprayed. That will be on jobs to do is to start looking at combine to get ready for wheat harvest. That is all for now, have a wonderful weekend!

**Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland**- It was another busy week in the southern part of the county. There is a lot of spraying going on, and some side dressing of corn. Crops are looking good. We did receive right at the eight tenths of an inch of rain which was very welcome. Larger corn starting to get some nice size and darker color. soybeans are coming along, no major report at this time.

**Rainfall:**

David Hall	0.4"
Barry Beetz	0.7"
David Myer	0.25"
Bill Gray	0.50"
Ken Bernard	0.3"
Geoffrey Janssen	0.8"

**Crop Report (Monday June 15, through Sunday, June 21, 2020)**

**Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau**

**David Hall, Serena-** Hot and dry is the theme of the week. Several storm chances passed the immediate area by, so I have zero rain to report this week. Area activities included mowing ditches, post spraying soybeans and cleaning up spring equipment.

Crops are growing well but need rain. Rule of thumb is an inch a week in a perfect growing environment. Most cornfields are knee high and soybeans are variable from 4 to 10" tall. Weed pressure is low to moderate with the lack of rain.

Markets are sideways awaiting the June 30 acreage report. Hard to imagine fall prices much lower than they are right now, but anything seems possible this year. Stay safe and healthy!

**Barry Beetz, Mendota-** We had a half inch this past week. It was definitely welcomed. The crops are growing fast with the sun and heat. The commercial corn rows are shaded over and the early planted narrow row beans are about shaded in. Producers are still spraying beans and mowing ditches. This week we are also fixing small tile repairs that we found during planting. Other than that, just paperwork for the Farm Service Agency programs and crop insurance. There are small chances of rain this coming week, so let's hope we all get some more.

**David Myer, Marseilles-** This past week the corn roots found the nitrogen in the soil we applied as it turned dark green and started growing rapidly unless it looked like a pineapple plant protecting itself from lack of rain and warmer temps, but we received just at an 1" over two nights after limited amounts previous 3 weeks. Soybeans needed the rain hadn't been growing much but maybe that's just typical for June. Spraying corn is almost done, unless a fungicide application just after the tassel appears. Many bean acres got sprayed before the Dicamba deadline, just hope after the rain we don't see a huge new flush of weeds appear. The Wheat has started to turn, so about 3 weeks the combines should be rolling just the 4th of July.

Hay regrowth looked very encouraging for a good 2nd cutting. With Covid19 restrictions easing up I'm not ready to change what I've been doing the past couple of months, will continue family time on weekends or when our paths cross as most activities or events just are not going to happen this summer.

**Bill Gray, Tonica/Lostant** - Last week I received 0.1" of rain. A few showers just missed our place. Some of the latest planted corn had herbicide applied. Most fields of corn are well over knee high and we are now watching it for insect pests and any disease that we may have to deal with. Soybean fields vary in height from about 8 inches tall to just emerging. As fields need it, they are being sprayed with herbicide to control the weeds.

We have been spraying weeds in soybean field fence lines and getting our spring equipment checked over and put away. We even managed to get away a couple evenings and catch a few catfish that will be hitting the hot oil very soon Have a good week and be safe!

**Ken Bernard, Grand Ridge-** For the week we received .6" of rain. That really is helping the crops and the hay as well. The corn is looking better but the underlining factor is that the corn planted in the middle of May is the corn that has thinner population from uneven emergence. The early planted beans are looking pretty good. The wheat has started to turn so I would guess about the 10th of July is when harvest will begin but I may be wrong, it could be a little earlier. This week is a week of paperwork and getting things turned in for certification of planting dates and other paper work. Not a fun week in my book! Have a wonderful week and a Safe one.

**Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland-** Another warm week in the southern part of the county. We did receive .4" of rain which came late Saturday night or early Sunday. It was definitely welcome as some of the earliest planted corn had started to roll in the afternoon with the heat and wind. Corn is getting some nice height to it . We have a lot of corn knee high and higher. Soybeans are getting a decent size to them. Everything is responding to the heat and limited amount of rain that we had had. No real pests to report at this time but definitely keeping any eye out for them. Activities have been mowing ditches and some baling going on. We are cleaning equipment from spring yet, that takes time but is a necessity.

**Rainfall:**

David Hall	0.0"
Barry Beetz	0.50"
David Myer	1.0"
Bill Gray	0.1"
Ken Bernard	0.6"
Geoffrey Janssen	0.4"

**Crop Report (Monday June 22, through Sunday, June 28, 2020)**  
**Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau**

**David Hall, Serena-** Lots of spotty opportunities for rain gave us 1.8 inches this last week. What a saving grace for the crops. Corn was starting to curl its leaves looking for morning dew and grass was going dormant, but everything is starting to look much better following the rain.

Late planted corn is approximately 18 inches tall and early corn is at least waist high. Soybeans are setting leaves again and the very early planted beans are just starting to flower.

Activities in the area included cleaning up equipment and thinking about fungicide applications. With current prices, the dilemma is whether or not to spend more money on crops with fall prices currently below cost of production, especially corn.

Take care and stay safe!

**Barry Beetz, Mendota-** We had 7 tenths of an inch this past week. A few storms went around us and areas not too far away saw twice what we had. The forecast is hot and muggy so maybe we can catch a shower or two. We are row crop cultivating some of the seed corn. Soybean spraying is wrapping up and detasselling is probably still 2 weeks away.

**David Myer, Marseilles-** We were blessed to have received nearly an 1" of rain before this week's heat wave kicks in. The corn thrives on humidity and warm temps and is growing rapidly. Corn is a very deep green color looks great but we know that the fields have poor spots we can't see once the corn gets taller. Early soybeans are blossoming, and most have been sprayed for grass and weeds. The Wheat is inching closer to harvest but it's still a couple weeks off. I am sure the quality should be good, but yields may be average at best as with the corn too many thin stands or poor spots from the wet fall after planting. The 2nd cutting hay will start soon but quality looks great quantity not as that great. As Covid19 continues on we are still practicing social distancing out on the farm, other than groceries and a random parts run we are staying close to home. Mowing yards picked up after the recent rain. We just learned another casualty of Covid19 The Farm Progress show in Boone, Iowa and they hope to provide a virtual view of showcasing new machines in the show fields anyway.

**Bill Gray, Tonica/Lostant** - I received 0.9" of rain last week. I also had one farm near Cedar Point receive some hail damage. Most of the fields of corn in my area are over waist high and about all that can be done out there is monitor for insect pests and disease issues.

Most soybean fields have been sprayed for weeds and some are getting close to knee high. Not much insect pressure is being seen in soybean fields yet. Japanese Beetles are showing up again but so far mostly on weeds in fence lines. They will also need to be monitored around the yard as they start feeding on fruit trees and other plants.

Have a good week and be safe!

**Ken Bernard, Grand Ridge-** For the week we received 1.9" of rain. Very needed with the hot temperatures. First planted corn in shoulder high and first planted beans are all blooming. That is perfect when it happens around the longest day of the year, June 22 time frame. Wheat is turning at a quick pace, and that is what this week entails, getting combine ready.

All spraying is done now, and fungicide application will be the next thing in the row crops. Not much else to report, stay hydrated and be safe.

**Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland**- Another very warm week very little rainfall to report only one tenth of an inch of rain which I guess is better than nothing. We are definitely getting a little on the dry side. Corn is up around 3.5 to 4 feet. Soybeans are growing, some post spring work still going. Mowing road ditches and some hay getting bailed with the drier conditions. Not seeing any pest issues. Hopefully everyone got a cool job to do on these hot days. Not seeing any pest issues at this time.

**Rainfall:**

David Hall	1.8"
Barry Beetz	0.7"
David Myer	1.0"
Bill Gray	0.9"
Ken Bernard	1.9"
Geoffrey Janssen	0.1"



**Crop Report (Monday June 29, through Sunday, July 5, 2020)**  
**Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau**

**David Hall, Serena-** No rainfall to report this week. Heat and humidity have doubled the size of most corn plants, and the early planted corn is just starting to show tassels. Although corn likes hot and humid weather for growing, it does not pollinate well in this heat. Hopefully, this heat wave will break soon to avoid potential yield loss for the corn. Soybeans are growing but not near as quickly as corn. The late planted soybeans either have or soon will be receiving their second and last herbicide spray pass. Hopefully, the bean plants will then grow enough to shade the rows and prevent additional weeds from accessing sunlight. Japanese beetles are starting to feed on the field edges, but pressure is light at this point. Wheat field harvest will most likely start in the area this week. Hope everyone had a great and safe Independence Day!

**Barry Beetz, Mendota-** We had 4 tenths of an inch of rain this past week. We all took a little time off with the holiday and should be ready to get back to the heat of things this week. We have started our irrigators and hope we get to turn them off because of a rain. Detasselling will start this week and pick up to a fast pace next week.

**David Myer, Marseilles-** A very warm dry summer continues on, as I checked to be sure my rain gage was still ready for a rare shower I found a dead fly and what I suspect was Sarahan Dust. I am not sure what's growing faster the corn or the Water Hemp as it seems to grow 6" a day once they pop out of the ground. Many early planted corn fields are poking out tassels, but later corn and replants are a week or so away. The Soybeans seemed to start to grow as the calendar turned to July. Post spraying on beans about wrapped up, now watching for new weeds germinating but without rain very few. The Wheat is coming out though the humidity is limiting the hours of harvest. Test weight on the Wheat looks great and excellent milling quality as we are hauling to new mill in Mendota. The straw is shorter this year so not much lodging noted in the field. Haying is going on, but regrowth is slowing, we need rain and soon for all crops.

**Bill Gray, Tonica/Lostant-** Last week I received no rain. Corn fields have grown fast with recent rains and warm weather and most fields were over head high by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Some will be tasseling soon. So far insect pressure in corn has been minimal. Most soybean fields have been sprayed for weeds and are looking pretty good. A few fields have the weed Waterhemp showing up again and are going to need to be resprayed. Japanese Beetles have been feeding on some plants next to grassy areas and need to be watched closely as they may need to be controlled. We are doing maintenance & cleaning planting equipment to get it put away when we are not mowing grass. On my game cameras I'm starting to see some pretty good antler growth on some of the bucks in our local deer herd so, it's time to do some deer stand maintenance. Have a good week & be safe.

**Ken Bernard, Grand Ridge-**No rain for the week! With the hot and humid conditions, crop are growing good but by the end of the week we could use a good rain. Wheat is combined and most of straw is baled. Wheat is a little below average but better than I thought it would be, good test weight helped this out. Corn planted early is just starting to tassel. Beans are blooming good, but the weeds are starting to poke through. Not much else this week, be safe, stay hydrated and stay cool.

**Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland-** It was a hot and dry week in the southern part of the county. We did receive two-tenths of an inch of rain in two separate events. We need more rain as the corn is starting to roll in the afternoon with the heat. Soybeans are growing slowly with it being dry, but they don't look too bad. Post-spraying has been done. Corn is getting closer to pollination.

**Rainfall:**

David Hall	0.0"
Barry Beetz	0.4"
David Myer	0.0"
Bill Gray	0.0"
Ken Bernard	0.0"
Geoffrey Janssen	0.2"

**Crop Report (Monday July 6, through Sunday, July 12, 2020)**  
**Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau**

**David Hall, Serena-** The crops welcomed 1.8 inches of rain this week in the immediate area, though rain amounts were highly variable from Thursday and Saturday storm events. Thankfully, the immediate area dodged wind and hail. Crops are looking good. Most of the corn is pollinating, and the cooler weekend temperatures were very beneficial for pollination. A majority of the soybean fields are starting to canopy, which means the ground between the rows are shaded so new weeds will not be enticed to grow.

What little wheat is in the area should be about harvested now, but I have not heard any yields. Second crop hay cutting should be coming this week if showers miss us. It sounds like more hot weather is coming our way.

It appears the small rally in corn and soybeans was short lived, as it rained at the Chicago Board of Trade. Corn dropped 20 cents in two days. It looks like we will need some positive trade news from somewhere or get the RFS refinery waivers resolved if we hope to see another rally in corn before harvest. After several years of planning by the Army Corps, the locks are now closed for much-needed repairs, and we hope that they will re-open on time this fall or our local cash prices may decrease further.

Stay safe and healthy everyone!

**Barry Beetz, Mendota-** This past week, we saw an inch of rain. It was very welcomed and needed. Also, the temperature has cooled off which is perfect for corn pollination. We are full speed into detasselling. Another thing to note is we shut off the irrigators because of this past rain and predictions of more this week.

**David Myer, Marseilles-** We had a great week after the 4th of July lots of heat and humidity, but the wheat got harvested and the straw baled. Wheat yielded about average but excellent test weight and quality and was hauled to the new ADM Mendota Mill for Wheat. Double crop beans planted and yes we were very blessed to have received 2" of rain over a 3-day period. Many early corn fields have tasseled and now how many of us will have Fungicide sprayed on the corn to improve and protect plant health. Early beans blossoming and setting pods and same scenario as the corn, protect and improve plant health or not it's a \$25-30 financial decision whether a positive return on that investment will payoff or not. We also got some great quality 2nd cutting hay baled up but need a nice dry stretch to finish the rest. Corn and bean prices tumbled after USDA claims grain inventories too high and trend line yields this year doesn't help that problem, so prices have fallen again. Enjoy the mid July time as school possibly may start in over a month in a real school building not online at least to start the 2020-2021 year. We hope and pray they can stay in the classrooms this year.

**Bill Gray, Tonica/Lostant-** Last week I received 0.7" of rain. Corn fields are tasseling out and starting to release pollen. It sure smells good on our early morning rides to check fields. We are monitoring fields for problems such as insect pests and disease issues. The planes will be flying soon to apply fungicide on some fields.

Soybean fields are also looking good other than where water stood too long in a few areas. A few fields were sprayed with herbicide last week and some were resprayed as another batch of weeds came through. We continue to monitor Japanese Beetle feeding on leaves but so far it hasn't been too bad.

Some of the hay fields in the area have been cut & baled the second time. Wheat fields locally were cut and the straw was baled. Roadside ditches and waterways are being mowed to control weeds also.

Have a good week and be safe.

**Ken Bernard, Grand Ridge**-We received .65" of rain for the week. Here at our home farm did not receive high winds but other places did receive damaging winds that laid some corn down. The moisture came at a good time for pollination of the earlier planted corn. The hot temperatures are not wanted during pollination but that is what we are getting. The millet that we planted after the harvesting of the wheat is coming up, amazingly it sprouted in dry ground before the rain. Not much else happening this week just catching up on odd jobs. Have a good week.

**Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland**- Another fairly dry week with limited rainfall. We did receive 4 tenths of an inch of rain through 2 separate rain events. Corn is starting to see more tassels and looking fairly decent. Soybeans getting some height and bushing out, starting to show some stress in the afternoon. Definitely could use some more rain

**Rainfall:**

David Hall	1.8"
Barry Beetz	1.0"
David Myer	2.0"
Bill Gray	0.7"
Ken Bernard	0.65"
Geoffrey Janssen	0.4"

## **Crop Report (Monday July 13, through Sunday, July 19, 2020)**

**Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau**

**David Hall, Serena-** We received 1.25 inches of rain this week from several storm events. The immediate area dodged strong winds, so the corn is standing well here. Planes are starting to fly on fungicide to the early planted corn that is finishing up pollination. Detasseling of seed corn has also commenced. Insect pressure has remained low so far. Corn fields have a nice deep green color yet, so there does not seem to be any nitrogen deficiency to date. The soybeans seemed to grow 6 inches taller in the last week and look very good.

Early planted soybeans are starting to blossom, setting small purple flowers. Each flower will produce a fruit, which in the case of the soybean is a pod with several beans in it. Flowers first develop near the base of the plant and then proceed upward as the lower flowers set pods. In favorable growing conditions, the process can continue for several weeks. Hopefully favorable growing conditions continue, as the markets do not appear to be on our side right now. Hope everyone stays safe and healthy!

**Barry Beetz, Mendota-** We had 1.4 inches of rain this past week. It happened over 3 events and was a gentle easy rain. The crops sure loved it. The corn is getting fungicide applied with an airplane. You will see them buzzing around for the next week or so. The soybeans are also getting fungicide, but most of that is applied with a ground rig. Detasselling is going along well, we will be doing this for another week or two. We have some oats to harvest and they should be ready this week. Other than that, stay safe and healthy.

**David Myer, Marseilles-**We had another great week with 1.3" of rain and plenty of sun and warm temps to keep pushing this crop along. Almost all the corn has reached tassel stage except the late May- early June planted is just a couple days off. It's a tough decision whether to have a Fungicide applied or not as some years the payback is excellent and some years it's a wash. Soybeans are blossoming and earliest planted are setting pods, it's amazing how much plant growth occurs after some rain and more sun. With all the precip and humidity haying is on hold. Grain markets have realized a very good crop is in the making so corn prices are suffering, but Soybean demand has helped keep prices close to \$9 for December delivery. 2020 sure is a strange year with COVID as interaction between others even out on the farm is limited.

**Bill Gray, Tonica/Lostant-** Last week I received 2.7" of rain.

Corn fields are tasseled out and looking pretty good. I'm not seeing much for insect damage at all so far. Aerial application of fungicide is being done on some fields of corn.

I'm seeing a few Japanese Beetles around and will continue to keep an eye on soybean fields for damage. So far the damage has only been in small areas of the fields.

Sunflowers that I planted for the wildlife are doing great and have become a popular place for picture taking. The bees are enjoying them now and our song bird population is increasing as they wait for them to mature.

We have gotten some odd jobs done around the farm and are back to grass mowing with the recent rains.

Have a good week & be safe.

**Ken Bernard, Grand Ridge-**For the week we received a large amount of rain, 2.75". It was a welcome site.

The small seed we planted after the wheat is up and growing good. Some of the 2nd crop hay still needs to be cut and baled.

Just having a hard time getting a window to do that now. All crops are growing at a quick pace with the good moisture and the hot temperatures. Corn has tasseled or it is just starting to shut the tassels. Fungicide is starting to be applied on corn, that is what you are seeing when airplanes or helicopters are doing when they are flying close to the top of the corn. Early soybeans have started putting on pods which is a welcome site. Cleaning up

spring equipment and putting it away are the jobs we are doing now, along with paperwork and other miscellaneous jobs that are not cherished on the farm. Have another safe week and be careful.

**Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland-** We were blessed with a very beautiful week with 5.5 inches of rain which made things pop. Soybeans are really enjoying the moisture and really growing. Corn is starting to see more and more tassels. There is some aerial application of fungicide going on. Starting to see a few combines rolling out of the sheds with guys getting a jump on fall.

**Rainfall:**

David Hall	1.25"
Barry Beetz	1.4"
David Myer	1.3"
Bill Gray	2.7"
Ken Bernard	2.75"
Geoffrey Janssen	5.5"

## **Crop Report (Monday July 20, through Sunday, July 26, 2020)**

**Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau**

**David Hall, Serena-** We received 1 inch of rainfall this past week. Late soybeans are shading the rows, and early soybeans are setting pods. Second crop hay is wrapped up, and fungicide is about done being sprayed on corn. The fungicide may just pay off if the wet humid weather persists. Fungicide will provide the crops about 3 weeks of protection against several plant diseases which have the potential to rob yield in humid and hot conditions.

I would like to clarify something that I mentioned last week. Every flower a soybean plant produces has the potential to produce a pod. But depending on conditions, approximately half of the flowers will not set pods.

We are starting to think about fall and pull out some equipment. Have a safe week everyone!

**Barry Beetz, Mendota-** We had 2.4 inches this past week, with 2 inches of that in one storm on Sunday night. It was a great rain. The crops all look terrific and the soil is charged to get through 2 more weeks. Several growers were baling 2nd cutting hay right before the rain. Detasselling is going strong again this week with a chance that it may be slowing down by next week.

**David Myer, Marseilles-** Summer 2020 extreme heat may be behind us as cooler temps are seen coming in the next week to 10-day period. We were fortunate to receive about 1/3" of rain this past week. The later planted corn has reached the tassel stage and pollination not far behind, Fungicide spraying continues but future forecasts may show the need isn't as great. Soybeans looked to have grown nearly a foot in height this week and the early planted beans have many pods already set and still blossoming and will set more pods. Fungicide and Insecticide spraying on the beans are being applied, but not as many acres as the corn. We've been alerted already that the Lagrange lock project will take at least 2 weeks longer than planned, so grain shipment this October may not happen. USDA reports crop condones improving which in turn drives the markets lower. August is here, but will there be in class Schools to start, only time will tell.

**Bill Gray, Tonica/Lostant-** Last week I received 0.8" rain. The corn & soybean crops continue to mature and look pretty good. The planes have been applying fungicide to some of the corn & soybean fields in my area. Roadsides are being mowed and soon we will be getting ready for harvest. We've seen several fawns & antler growth on some of the local bucks looks pretty good. Archery season will be here before we know it. Been hearing coyotes howling too, guess we didn't get them all last year. Have a good week and be safe.

**Ken Bernard, Grand Ridge-** For the week we received 2.3" of rain. That topped it off nicely, beans really took off but where water is sitting in ponds the beans are starting to turn yellow. We sprayed fungicide over the weekend on the beans with our sprayer. We also put fungicide on some corn mostly with the airplane. Corn is pretty well all pollinated with the last planting just starting to tassel and start pushing out the silks on the ear. Looks like right now there will be a good crop in both corn and beans. We combined some oats for a couple of neighbors this last weekend and they were okay as far as yield. Also got a field of hay baled. The hay crop was a little too mature that made it a little coarser. Hope everyone stayed cool and hydrated this last week, looks like cooler weather will move in with less humidity. Stay safe and be careful.

**Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland-** It was another warm week. We did receive .8" of rain which is very beneficial to the crops. Corn is moving right along with pollination. Soybeans are also growing rapidly, starting to get some very good height and bushing out, and really looking nice. Aerial application of fungicide still going on in corn.

**Rainfall:**

David Hall	1.00"
Barry Beetz	2.4"
David Myer	.33"
Bill Gray	0.8"
Ken Bernard	2.3"
Geoffrey Janssen	.8"



## Harvest 2020 Report

### Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau

**David Hall, Serena-** Just like everything else in 2020, agriculture was a whirlwind of ups and downs for the area. After wondering if the government would consider us an essential service, most crops were planted in a timely manner. It really looked like a bin buster for both corn and soybeans, which we needed based on the low crop prices at the time. God had different plans though, and August left us without rain but gave Iowa a derecho. The 2020 national crop shrunk, and prices began to climb, which left us with similar revenue to what we expected, just with less bushels. Those who forward marketed their crops (sold ahead) were not rewarded this year. Crop prices have continued to increase through the end of the year, along with input prices on chems, fertilizer, seed and fuel. I'm sure if high prices stick around, machinery costs will also inflate. Everyone wants their cut. Nothing is simple, but farming was never for the faint of heart. We are blessed to remain healthy and pray for those who have been impacted by the pandemic and the lockdowns that ensued. I also pray that the recent elections will not negatively impact agriculture, the rural way of life, and individual liberty and freedoms. As we ring in 2021, let us hope for a safe, healthy and successful year.

**Barry Beetz, Mendota-** We finally made it through 2020. The harvest was quick on account of the warm, dry weather we had. Our operation finished up harvest the first week of November and a week later with tillage. The yields were about average and there has been a nice rally in the grain markets this past month. December weather allowed us to fix tile, repair waterways, and trim trees. All these projects have been pushed off the last few years because of late harvest or poor weather. I wish everyone a Happy New Year and please stay healthy and safe.

**David Myer, Marseilles-** 2020 ended with a huge surprise in the grain markets that none of us saw coming and most have sold many bushels of their crops long before the rally got fired up. Even as late as August the USDA predicted \$3.50 corn and \$8.75 beans for average prices for our 2020 crop.

My 2020 crops suffered from the August drought to the extent of 10 bushels per acre on beans and 30 bushels an acre short on corn but our drying costs were much less thanks to the extra heat units and dry fall.

The excellent Fall allowed many acres to get fertilized for the 2021 crop compared to the previous year when harvest dragged well into December and this past fall went very fast and smooth. Farming in 2020 changed how some of the things we were accustomed to doing it a new way one of the biggest was the Online only Farm Retirement auctions and the many Zoom meetings even for our county and State Farm Bureaus. As with most of us these changes we may not like but they will be a part of our lives moving forward. We are very thankful for the crops we did produce while many of us have lost someone close to them. May 2021 be a much better year for all.

**Bill Gray, Tonica/Lostant -** Another interesting year is over, and another crop has been harvested. Harvest this year started a little later than average for me with some corn being taken out before soybeans on October 1<sup>st</sup>. After a few days we were able to switch to soybeans when some of the earlier varieties dried down. After completing soybean harvest, we were back to corn. We had very few rain delays and were able to finish harvest on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Soybean yields were pretty good in all of my fields with an above average yield. Corn yields were also

above average despite the hot, dry spell we had. A quite a bit of fall fertilizer, ag lime and anhydrous ammonia got applied after harvest and a quite a bit of tillage work was completed. Hope everyone had a great holiday season and has a safe and healthy 2021.

**Ken Bernard, Grand Ridge-** This year's harvest was surprisingly better than expected. Started combining beans about the 22nd of September and finished corn the last day of October. Over all our beans averaged the best ever, I believe due to planting early and spraying fungicide and insecticide on them in August. The corn crop was also better than anticipated do to not getting any rain in August. The good weather in November lead to getting all the fall tillage done that we wanted to do. Along with fertilizer and NH<sub>3</sub> (anhydrous ammonia) being applied. Crop prices have been going up since harvest began. Right now, both corn and beans are higher than anyone thought they would go. Winter weather has not been too bad yet, but long way to go. With that , have a safe winter ! And hopefully I will be a crop watcher next season.

**Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland** -Harvest was definitely more enjoyable. The weather was not as much of an issue as in the years past. Nice to have the crops all out before the snow was on the ground. Yields were affected by the dry conditions in the late season but overall, the crops fared better. Soybean yields varied on location. Spotty rains during the final months of summer did make a difference. Yields overall were good. Fieldwork that was intended to get done did with the mild fall weather.