

Crop Report (Monday June 6, through Sunday, June 12, 2022)
Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau

David Hall, Serena- Here we are for another year reporting on crop progress in LaSalle County. Thank you to Shaw Media for publishing these, and I hope everyone enjoys reading them. I farm with my dad and brother on our 165-year-old family ground north of Ottawa. We raise corn, soybeans and a crop of children who want to farm when they grow up.

It has been an interesting start to the year, for sure. Cold temperatures and more than timely rainfall caused planting delays in late April and early May. Planting progressed quickly once temperatures warmed up, and in 2-3 weeks most everything in the area was planted. Our corn is 8-12" tall and growing inches by the day in this current 90+ degree weather. Soybeans are anywhere from 1-6" tall and looking healthy.

Area activities for the past week included mowing ditches, applying post-emergence herbicide to the corn and side-dressing nitrogen fertilizer on the corn. Equipment repairs and preventative maintenance is also taking place, and it is quite frustrating to find out typically common parts are not available for weeks or months. Just seems to be the world we live in now. Rainfall for the reporting week was 1.6 inches. Have a safe week!

Ken Beck, Mendota- It was a good week in Northwestern LaSalle County. Planters were tucked away for the first time. Maybe some replant will have to happen in soybeans. A lot of sprayers got out of the sheds and got going. I have seen a lot of sprayers out of the shed and get going. Side-dressing was started. We had 2" of rain so that kind of slowed everything down but it was a welcome rain.

David Myer, Marseilles- 2022 will be the most expensive crop I have ever planted, but thankfully so far I've been able to get the products I needed but harvest maybe another story time will tell. Rainfall past week was 0.5" plus many scattered showers over the weekend. Corn looks good and am presently applying nitrogen for my fields. Post spraying is also getting done for final pass on the corn acres. Soybeans doing well planting dates from early May to late May so we'll see which turns out best at harvest. The hay is being cut and baked finishing up 1st cutting so hoping for some recharge moisture after this extreme heat breaks but this is great now for the crops helps put roots down on the corn. The Wheat looks very good and little disease pressure so hopefully high quality wheat will be harvested in early July.

Bill Gray, Tonica/Lostant - 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. I've been a member of the Tonica Vol Fire Dept for 33 years and an EMT for 27 years. Last week I received 2.3" of rain. It's been another interesting spring this year to get crops planted. It seemed to take forever for the ground to warm up and dry out. The corn in my area has been planted & has emerged. There is a quite a bit of variance in height depending on when it was planted. Many fields of corn are having post-emerge herbicide applied.

Soybeans were planted at different times this spring and the amount of growth varies from 6" tall to just now emerging.

Some fields of hay are being cut and baled in the area. With recent rains and warm temperatures, it should be pretty good.

I've finally had a chance to get some of my garden planted and it appears that I will have to put a fence up around it as the rabbit population has exploded. I've noticed most of the does in my trail cam pictures no longer have their big bellies meaning that fawns are being born. Congratulations to all the recent graduates! Have a good week & be safe!

Ken Bernard, Grand Ridge- Welcome to the first crop watchers report for 2022!

To start off I farm in the Grand Ridge area with my son James and my parents are also involved with our family farm here in Farm Ridge Township.

We raise corn, soybeans, and hay along with a small purebred hereford cow calf operation. To start the year off in April was cold and wet, which did not allow for planting to get started at a normal pace. It was a struggle to get crops in the ground, of which we had to replant some of the first soybeans that were the first we had planted in late April. When we got in and planting corn it came up nicely. The later beans emerged better than the early ones. Planting was completed at the end of May. First crop hay has been cut and hopefully will be all baled when this is published. Corn spraying is about complete and bean spraying is under way. Also, sidedressing of nitrogen on the corn is complete. We received 2.1" of rain last week which is most welcomed since this week is way hotter than normal. Hopefully we will receive some timely rains in the coming days to keep this crop going. That is all I have for this report, everyone have a good Father's Day Weekend and stay cool and hydrated.

Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland -Hello I live in the very southern tip of LaSalle County. I operate a Corn and Soybean farming operation with my family. Crops look good at this point we have received adequate moisture in the last few weeks. I did receive right at 1.1 inches of rain in the last seven days with the warm temperatures and the adequate moisture crops are responding nicely. Corn has a deep dark color; earliest planted corn is starting to shade the row and grow rapidly. Soybeans are growing nicely and seem to be changing daily.

Rainfall:

David Hall	1.6"
Ken Beck	2.0"
David Myer	0.5"
Bill Gray	2.3"
Ken Bernard	2.1"
Geoffrey Janssen	1.1"

Crop Report (Monday June 13, through Sunday, June 19, 2022)
Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau

David Hall, Serena- It has been a hot and dry week, with zero rainfall to report. Herbicide is being applied to both corn and the taller soybeans. We are hoping for some rain soon to counteract the temporary 'burn' effects of the herbicide and promote weed control, as many of these herbicides require rainfall and active weed growth to be effective. Other area activities include cutting and baling hay and preparing for upcoming wheat harvest for those that grow it.

I am hearing that wholesale fertilizer prices are starting to come down due to a drop in natural gas prices. Hopefully the trend continues. Commodity prices are holding firm due to longer term forecast of continued hot and dry. But that could change at any moment. We missed a good chance for some rain that went north and south of LaSalle County, but we also dodged wind and hail. Corn plants have the typical leaf curling associated with stress right now, but they are hopefully putting down good roots at the same time. Have a safe week everyone!

Ken Beck, Mendota- Hello from the northwest part of the county. We all know it's been hot and the heat is going to continue. This week side-dressing and spraying got finished up. A lot of hay baling was underway in this part of the county. So, things are wrapping up pretty quickly for the first go around of the spraying. The corn is pretty close to being put away for the year other than fungicide treatments. No rainfall to report this week. Stay cool everyone.

David Myer, Marseilles- Has the Flash Drought officially started ?? No rain to report and the corn is rolling up each afternoon but is still growing. Soybeans are still growing and some of the early planted beans are getting their post spraying pass. Grain markets not responding to dry conditions yet. The Wheat is turning fast which is probably not the best yield wise. Stay safe and stay hydrated

Bill Gray, Tonica/Lostant - Last week I received no rain and so far crops are looking pretty good with it being hot and dry.

Most fields of corn are knee high to around waist 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 4-12 inches tall. 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 early mornings to catch a few bluegills that hit the hot oil on Father's Day. Have a good week and be safe!

Ken Bernard, Grand Ridge- No rain for this hot and dry week. We went from too wet in spring to now to dry in just days. The corn is showing some heat stress in the afternoon. It is starting to roll the leaves to protect itself. The beans seem to be doing a little better with this

hot dry period. Finishing baling hay and spraying corn. Starting to spray soybeans. Also starting to clean up spring tillage equipment and servicing them items to get them ready for next year or ordering replacement parts so hopefully we will get before next year when we need it again. Stay cool and safe in this weather!

Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland -Another warm week in the southern part of the county, no rainfall to report. Crops are holding their own and still have a dark color. Some curling of the corn is happening in the mid-afternoon heat. Spraying of soybeans is going on,ditch mowing getting done, and some hay is getting baled.

Rainfall:

David Hall	0.0"
Ken Beck	0.0"
David Myer	0.0"
Bill Gray	0.0"
Ken Bernard	0.0"
Geoffrey Janssen	0.0"

Crop Report (Monday June 20, through Sunday, June 26, 2022)
Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau

David Hall, Serena- We received some much needed rain across the area on Saturday for a weekly total of 1.1". Crops are still looking short of moisture above ground but are hopefully putting down deep roots. I looked in my old report of where crops were last year, and we are still 2-3 weeks behind schedule in growth. The hot and dry weather appears to be returning for now.

Corn and soybean commodity traders looked at their calendars and historical charts to see that the highs are usually posted in June, and they decided to follow suit. Corn and bean prices dropped nearly a dollar in three days. If only our input costs could drop that quick. By the time this is published, the USDA June report will have been published, and who knows where prices will be.

Area activities for the week included application of soybean herbicide, baling hay and working on equipment. We had a great time at the 20th Annual LaSalle County Farm Bureau Ag-In-the-Classroom Golf Outing on Friday! Have a safe week.

Ken Beck, Mendota- No report this week.

David Myer, Marseilles- Rainfall the past weekend totaled about 0.70" and was very welcomed though I was able to plant sweet corn less than 8 hours after the rain stopped. Crops look refreshed but more precipitation is needed. Post spraying beans after the rain will slow those weeds down hopefully they're actively growing again. The Wheat is just about ready to run. I will curious how yields will be but the it's waist high so lots of straw. After a quick trip to Iowa their crops are more advanced as they've had more timely rain showers. Enjoy the 4th of July with family and friends.

Bill Gray, Tonica/Lostant - I received 0.9" of rain last week. After a few weeks of no rain, it was very welcome as some corn fields were showing signs of stress.

Most of the fields of corn in my area are about waist high or a little above and about all that can be done out there is monitor for insect pests and disease issues.

Several soybean fields have been sprayed for weeds and some are still needing to be sprayed. Not much insect pressure is being seen in soybean fields yet.

I've gotten several pictures of fawns this spring and have seen antler growth starting on some of the adult bucks. I've also seen more ringneck pheasants this year than I've seen in many years.

Have a good week and be safe!

Ken Bernard, Grand Ridge- Nice rain Saturday the 25th of June, 8 tenths of an inch. A gentle, about three-hour soaker. Took the stress away from the growing crops. Before the rain the corn was rolling its leaves in the afternoon heat to protect itself. Beans and hay also look better after the rain. I think the wheat was a little pass time to add yield and it looks like it is turning faster than normal. It looks like it may be ready to harvest before the 4th of July. Finishing spraying the beans for weeds this week, and hopefully sprayer will get parked for a while. This week looks a little more comfortable for temperatures and less humidity, which I can handle. Getting ready to cut hay maybe after next rain event, just have to watch the weather. Have a Great week and a safe 4th of July weekend!!

Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland -We were blessed with 1.2 inches of rain Saturday. This is definitely helping the crops. Spraying of soybeans is still going on, road ditches are getting mowed before the holiday. The earliest planted sweet corn is tasseling.

Rainfall:

David Hall	1.1"
Ken Beck	
David Myer	0.70"
Bill Gray	0.9"
Ken Bernard	0.8"
Geoffrey Janssen	1.2"

Crop Report (Monday June 27, through Sunday, July 3, 2022)
Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau

David Hall, Serena-We caught a couple showers through the week to keep crops hanging on, for a total of 0.6" for the reporting week. Area activities included post spraying herbicide on beans, second cutting of hay, and starting wheat harvest. Commodity markets are dropping hard with increased rain chances next week. Hope to see everyone at the 4H and Junior Fair

Ken Beck, Mendota- I hope everyone had a good 4th of July holiday. Well, we are back to hot and muggy today. The rainfall in my area ranged from .2" to 1.50" depending on where you were. I received .50" and the crops are looking good. Dog days of summer are upon us. Some wheat combining is going on but everyone's waiting for the oats to get ready. Then it will be on to the next problem.

David Myer, Marseilles- Rainfall past week was 0.4" even less a couple miles south. Corn needs more rain now but looks fairly good considering lack of rain. Seems to be a crop of water hemp that escaped the post spray pass last month. Soybeans looking good but August rain is most important. The wheat is slow drying down with the little showers nightly and high humidity. Also I have seen some 2nd cutting hay got baled without being rained on.

Bill Gray, Tonica/Lostant - Last week I received 0.6" of rain.

Corn fields have grown fast with recent rains & warm weather. Most fields are shoulder to head high by the 4th 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 are still needing to be sprayed and will have it done as soon as fields dry & allow sprayers to run. Japanese Beetles have been feeding on some plants next to grassy areas & need to be watched closely as they may need to be controlled.

Some fields of wheat were harvested and it sounds like yields have been pretty good.

We are doing maintenance & cleaning planting equipment to get it put away when we are not mowing grass.

Have a good week & be safe.

Ken Bernard, Grand Ridge- For the week we received .9" of rain. It was welcomed because it was getting dry again. The corn is really taking advantage of the hot weather and we are getting just enough rain to keep everything going. I drove by a couple of fields that have started to tassel. The beans are looking okay, they just don't seem to be growing very fast. The weeds seem to be also growing and are not all dead after being sprayed. Most of the wheat has been combined but the beans for second crop have not been planted yet from what I see. Next items on the calendar are to start spraying fungicide on the corn and beans. Cutting second crop hay

also needs to be done but weather is not looking promising for that to happen this week. Stay cool and be safe.

Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland -A very warm and dry week lead to a pleasant surprise for the weekend. I received right at 3.2 inches of rain. I had one tenth earlier in the week the remainder came Monday afternoon no hail or wind damage to report with this rain. Some ponding of water in certain lower areas but it is going down quickly.

Rainfall:

David Hall	0.6"
Ken Beck	0.50"
David Myer	0.4"
Bill Gray	0.6"
Ken Bernard	0.9
Geoffrey Janssen	3.2"

Crop Report (Monday July 4, through Sunday, July 9, 2022)
Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau

David Hall, Serena-For the reporting week, we received a total of 1.1" from a series of storms that dumped much more both north and south of us. Subsoil moisture is still deficient, but crops are looking decent anyhow. Corn is nearing tassel and of course the forecast is for hot and dry weather. Corn pollination will perform best under cooler conditions, but 'we get what we get and we don't throw a fit' as my wife tells our kids. Soybeans aren't growing as fast as they could be, and many 30" row fields have yet to canopy (shade the rows). Some fields may struggle with additional weed pressure in the coming weeks.

Area activities included wrapping up post-applications of herbicide on beans, working on equipment, and getting ready for the fairs. Japanese beetles are starting to nibble on tree foliage and edges of soybean fields, but their populations remain small to date. Commodity markets are continuing to sink. Up like a staircase, down like an elevator, as they say. Hope everyone had a great time at the LaSalle County 4H Show and Junior Fair this year!

Ken Beck, Mendota-Well another week went by. Crops are looking good. Fungicide and insecticide spraying on some early bean fields have started. Corn probably a week later on the early planted. Rain was a disappointment, 1 tenth to a quarter inch. Will be looking for some rain in the early future.

David Myer, Marseilles- The drought has not broken but I did receive about 0.9" over a 3-day period most came on July 8 which totaled 0.6". The corn is racing towards pushing out tassels and pollination, so we are hoping and praying for more rain in the next 10 days as we are living day to day now. Soybeans are looking very good enjoying the ideal drier conditions and growing and blossoming, just need good August rain to fill the pods. 2nd cutting hay is going on with good quality, but quantity is less and worried about a 3rd crop without rain. The Wheat should get knocked out this week as too many light showers kept us on the sidelines waiting for it to dry. Grain markets would make the weak very uneasy as prices fell over \$1 a bushel and now have recovered part of that back but new crop prices more volatile.

Bill Gray, Tonica/Lostant - Last week I received 6.8" of rain. We experienced water running through fields and across roadways. There are areas where water sat too long, and crop loss occurred.

Corn fields have really gotten taller with the weather we've been having and are starting to tassel. 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. A few fields still need to be sprayed with herbicide. 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 and 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- Well, what a week for rain fall here! 4.8" for the week, we went from barely getting by to almost too much. We were also very, very lucky that we did not get bad storms with these rain fall amounts. The corn has that deep green healthy look to it. Some fields are tasseling, and others will be by the end of the week. Soybeans are also growing nicely, but the weeds are continuing to grow too. The crops will start to get fungicide applied very soon, either by an airplane, helicopter or a ground sprayer. The wheat is hard to get dry with all the rain, same with cutting the hay. And the grass has started growing again so that is another job to keep up with. Hopefully good weather will happen this week and get these projects done. Stay safe and be careful.

Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland -Corn is starting to tassel here in the southern part of the county. Soybeans are growing nicely getting nice height and dark green color. Herbicide application on soybeans is complete at this time. There is some aerial application of fungicide starting. Rainfall totals for the week are 3.1 inches. Some ponding had occurred after the last two major rain events but the water seems to have gone down, moisture levels in the soil should be adequate for some time.

Rainfall:

David Hall	1.1"
Ken Beck	0.25"
David Myer	0.6"
Bill Gray	6.8"
Ken Bernard	4.8"
Geoffrey Janssen	3.1"

Crop Report (Monday July 18, through Sunday, July 24, 2022)
Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau

David Hall, Serena-We received 0.9" of rain for the reporting week, dodging strong winds. Crops are looking pretty good. Pollination is wrapping up in corn and initial kernel counts look good, but we will need continued rains and cooler weather to hold onto top end yields. Fungicide is being aerially applied to corn and ground-rig applied to soybeans. Fungicide will help protect the plants from yield-robbing diseases that live in the air or soil. Other area activities included de-tasseling seed corn, cutting hay, and preparing for fall. Have a safe week!

Ken Beck, Mendota- No report this week.

David Myer, Marseilles- Amazingly we were blessed again this past week with another 0.75" so we will survive another couple of weeks. Most corn is deep green and tall and in or just past pollination stage so still more water needed moving forward to fill the pollinated kernels. Soybeans have enjoyed an almost ideal year so far being on the dry side but August rains will be needed for pod fill. Bean fungicide and insecticide spraying probably not far off. The weekly rains have benefited the hay fields so maybe a better 3rd cutting than the 2nd will occur. Grain markets had trended down but as crop ratings fall the prices have started rising again. Having traveled through Illinois into mid-Missouri many crops are later than normal and Missouri looked tough late planting and very short on the precipitation.

Bill Gray, Tonica/Lostant - - Last week I received 0.6" 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 still 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. The bees are enjoying them now and our songbird population is increasing as they wait for them to mature.

We've gotten some odd jobs done around the farm and continue grass mowing with the recent rains.

Have a good week & be safe.

Ken Bernard, Grand Ridge- For the week we received .65" of rain. It was another nice rain that did not come with any strong winds or other bad weather. Just about all corn is through the pollination stage and is looking very good here. Beans are also blooming and started to set pods. They are growing much better now that some of the moisture has absorbed into the ground. Fungicide spraying will begin on them shortly. The escaped weeds are also growing and are most likely not going to die if sprayed again. 2nd cutting of hay was baled last week and hauled in of the field. It was also a good crop of hay. Finishing hauling out the last of the corn in the bins this week and moving machinery around. Have another safe week.

Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland -Fungicide application is still going on for both corn and soybeans, I did receive 2 inches of rain over the weekend. A few combines are starting to emerge in preparation of harvest. Mowing of yards and road ditches as always as the weather allows.

Rainfall:

David Hall	0.9"
Ken Beck	
David Myer	0.75"
Bill Gray	0.6"
Ken Bernard	0.65"
Geoffrey Janssen	2.0"

Crop Report (Monday July 25, through Sunday, July 31, 2022)
Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau

David Hall, Serena-Our final report before harvest has arrived. Not that we will be harvesting anywhere close to next week of course, but the action slows down a bit from here until harvest. We will be preparing equipment for fall. We did not receive any measurable rainfall for the reporting week, and it gave growers an opportunity to wrap up fungicide applications on both corn and soybeans. Corn pollination is wrapping up on the longer season and later planted corn, and soybeans are flowering. Soybeans can set an immense amount of flowers, but many can be aborted and do not produce pods. Soybean growth before flowering is dependent on hours of sunlight per day. But final pod counts will be determined mostly by temperature and available subsoil moisture. Moisture looks adequate for the time being, but any hot and windy days will chip away at that quickly. Another good rain in August will definitely help with pod set and fill. Cool nights will help corn with grain fill.

I traveled through Champaign into western Indiana along I-74 corridor over the week, and crops were very short of moisture there. You could definitely tell where the poorer soils were with corn leaves rolled up tight and a sickly green color. Soybeans didn't look as bad. A look at the drought maps show Champaign County as maybe the worst spot in the state for lack of rainfall. I think overall we will see above average yields in LaSalle County and Illinois. Maybe that will make up for the guys out west who have already lost their crop to drought. The markets looked like they might be picking up on that loss, but then we dropped again. Apparently when it rains at the CBOT in Chicago that's good enough for the whole Midwest. Yield tours will be occurring soon around the Midwest, and it will be interesting to see what the markets do then.

I haven't heard much for 2023 input pricing yet. There is still a lot of pricing uncertainty given the issues in Europe, Ukraine and Russia. Have a safe harvest everyone!

Ken Beck, Mendota- Things are pretty good here in the northwest part of the county. Not much to report about, the dog days of summer are here. We had .7" of rain this week but we don't need a lot of water right now. If we catch a rain this week and another one in August that would put the icing on the cake.

David Myer, Marseilles- My crops in Rutland Township look good but we have just been getting by all summer getting just enough rain to keep the crops going, but this week only 0.1" and we really need it now. Corn crop is now in control by the weather not much else we can do but pray for more timely showers. I did hear possible green snap in some corn furrows a couple weeks back. Soybeans looking good as well and most in the reproductive stage so spraying fungicide and insecticide as timing is right for it now. Will be prepping equipment for fall harvest as this month rolls on and sure hope the grass still needs to be cut cause that means we've got some rain. Thanks for all the people who read our reports each week and also thanks to The Times for putting a local farm weekly summer crop report in their paper and online.

And thanks to staff at LaSalle County Farm Bureau for submitting our reports to The Times .

Bill Gray, Tonica/Lostant - - Last week I received no rainfall.

The corn crop is looking good in my area. The ears continue to get larger as the kernel size increases. Not much we can do but wait for it to mature and get dry enough to harvest at this point.

The soybean crop is able to take advantage of any summer rains yet as pods continue to fill and plants set a few more pods. Aerial application of fungicide continues to happen on some fields.

I've started getting equipment ready for harvest and will soon begin mowing road ditches for the final time this year.

The end of summer is here once again. Squirrel season is open and before you know it, dove and deer season will be here. The days are beginning to shorten and this is my last report until after harvest. Where has the summer gone?

Have a great fall & be safe.

Ken Bernard, Grand Ridge- Last week I received no rainfall.

The corn crop is looking good in my area. The ears continue to get larger as the kernel size increases. Not much we can do but wait for it to mature and get dry enough to harvest at this point.

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Have a great fall & be safe.

Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland -Well as we get ready for harvest it has been an interesting season again. Weather has definitely played a big role as always. It seems as we go from one extreme to the other. Fortunately at this time crops are looking very good in my area. Hopefully everyone will get to spend some quality time with family and friends before the Summer ends and a hectic harvest season begins. No measurable rainfall in my area.

Rainfall:

David Hall	0.0"
Ken Beck	0.7"
David Myer	0.1"
Bill Gray	0.0"
Ken Bernard	0.0"
Geoffrey Janssen	0.0"

Harvest 2022 Report

Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau

David Hall, Serena- We are thankful for another bountiful harvest this year. Wrapping up 2022 season, we harvested average to above average corn and soybeans. Besides harvest, cover crop seeding, winter wheat planting, tile installation, tillage and nitrogen fertilizer application were area field activities performed before the ground froze.

And then on to planning for 2023, which involves deciding what acres will be planted to what crop, what seed varieties and traits to select for those acres, what herbicides to purchase and apply, what crop insurance products to purchase, etc., etc.

Recent rains have brought the Mississippi River back up to normal levels, which hindered barge shipping through most of harvest. This not only affects how much grain we can send south, but how much fertilizer can be shipped north.

Weather forecasters say the current La Nina will end in the next couple months. That will change our Spring and Summer weather patterns a bit from what occurred over the last two years. How much? I'll let you know next year. Enjoy the holidays!

David Myer, Marseilles- As I reflect back on our 2022 crop in our wrap up from last year, I remember saying each week in June and July that we were living on the edge in my area just getting 1/4-1/2" showers every 7-8 days that just kept us in survival mode then beneficial rains came and made a crop we thought was not possible last year. We are very thankful for the blessings we received with very good yields and good prices though input costs are increasing as we all know. Recently we have received numerous rain events that have been able to help recharge our soils and slowly replenish our rivers and streams, but more is needed. For those of us who have been watching the used farm machinery market prices and supply, those are both showing demand is high. Farmland prices are higher than a year ago and we hear most land is being purchased by producers not outside investors. Thanks to The Times and LaSalle County Farm Bureau staff who help get these reports to the readers, and we pray that we see another good year in 2023.

Bill Gray, Tonica/Lostant – Another year is over and another crop has been harvested.

Harvest this year started late September, which was a little behind average. Instead of starting with soybeans though, we started with corn as some of it was ready. Once we got going on soybean harvest though, it went very smooth. For the most part our harvest went very good with only a couple minor breakdowns and just a couple rain delays. We were able to complete harvest in one month's time.

Soybean yields were pretty good in all my fields with an above average yield. Corn yields were also above average despite some of it being planted a little later than I would've liked.

Quite a bit of fall fertilizer, ag lime and anhydrous ammonia got applied after harvest and quite a bit of tillage work was completed.

We were able to put some venison in the freezer this hunting season and will enjoy it for the next few months. We've also started working on the local coyote population and have been able to do some nuisance beaver trapping with pretty good success.

Hope everyone had a great holiday season and has a safe and healthy 2023.

Ken Bernard, Grand Ridge- The wrap up crop report is a great one! It started off a little slow with the corn not drying down and the soybean stems were tough and green which made combining slow. The weather was very good which helped in the process of drying down everything. The yields were very,very good! The soybeans in a lot of places were better on the poorer ground than some of the better ground. Then when we got the beans all done and got into the corn steady, the problem was finding storage for the good crop. We did find storage for everything, but it was a challenge. The weather stayed dry so field work all got done with the fertilizer and NH3 getting applied. We can still use moisture for next year's crop. The rain we received before the ground froze was welcome, but more would be nice. Right now, we are preparing our books for tax time and other jobs we put off through the fall. Next, we will start preparing equipment for the spring planting season. Hope everyone had a nice and safe holiday season! Looking forward to the 2023 Crop Year!

Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland- Harvesting in the southern part of the county went very well. Yields were exceptional for both corn and soybeans, weather allowed for a very timely harvest, very little delays. Fall tillage was completed. Anhydrous ammonia was applied.

Ken Beck, Mendota- It was a very good fall in the northwestern part of the county. Everything came out pretty fast and easy and the weather cooperated. A lot of fall work got done and overall yields were good, in some cases very good. Prices were good so everybody was happy until they got their fertilizer bill.