

Crop Report (Monday May 17, through Sunday, May 23, 2021)

Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau

David Hall, Serena- We have had a pretty good start of a growing season here. The ground was looking a bit dry until we received some good rainfall, and we have been receiving timely rains since. Early April planted soybeans sat in the ground for several weeks and caught a few frosts but have caught up with early May planted soybeans now. Corn is 3-6" tall and looking healthy so far. Markets seem to agree at the moment and are falling for the time being.

Rainfall for the reporting week of 5/17 through 5/23 was 0.35 inches.

Activities from the past week included finishing planting soybeans, applying pre-emergence herbicide to the beans and mowing ditches. Hesitant to clean the planter up for a couple weeks in case of a June rain deluge that might require replant of a drownout.

I farm with my dad and brother on our 164 year old family ground. My loving and patient wife supports my passion of farming as we raise two little boys who I hope will also embrace the passion for farming in LaSalle County. Have a safe week!

Barry Beetz, Mendota- No report this week.

David Myer, Marseilles- Spring 2021 has been very different compared to past couple of years as we could plant almost anytime during the month of April with few rain delays only lots of changing temps and some frost. May has brought a few more showers but this past week only totaled 0.6" for the week and planters have returned to the fields to finish Plant21 which overall has gave us excellent emergence though more uneven than we would really like to see. Grain markets have been quite the ride but sometime they will fall back probably faster than they went up. Enjoy the coming Memorial Day weekend with family and friends.

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 32 years and an EMT for 27 years.

Last week I received 0.7" of rain. Most of the corn in my area has been planted & several farmers have finished up. Some early planted corn was damaged by frost and has recovered. Many fields of corn are having post-emerge herbicide applied.

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 may need to be replanted. There are a few soybean fields yet to be planted. I've noticed some fields of hay being cut and baled in the area. With recent rains and warm temperatures, it should be pretty good.

Have a good week & be safe!

Ken Bernard, Grand Ridge- Welcome back to Crop Watchers for the 2021 crop year. My family farms around the Grand Ridge area. We raise corn, soybeans, wheat, and some hay for our small Hereford cattle herd which my son takes care of now. This spring planting season was earlier than normal, and ground conditions were next to perfect. We started planting beans first then started corn with the other planter. Ground temperatures were cool for a long time but we had very good luck with emergence and stands are very good over all. We did have some frost damage in first field of soybeans which I replanted last Saturday. We have some 1st cutting of hay done but have more to do. The wheat looks very good as it was sprayed with a fungicide the beginning of this week. Spraying of the corn has begun and nitrogen is started to be side dressed on it also. Last week we received about 6 tenths of an inch of rain. More will be needed in the next few weeks as ground moisture is at a sparse level for this time of year, but crops are growing. Have a safe Memorial Day Weekend! Thanks, and looking forward in reporting to you this summer.

Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland -Hello I live in very southern tip of Lasalle county in Groveland Township. My farming operation raises corn and soybeans. This spring has been interesting with the various weather conditions. Early planted corn is starting to look good with the warmer weather, I did receive 1.3 inches of rain in the last week.

Rainfall:

David Hall	0.35"
Barry Beetz	
David Myer	0.6"
Bill Gray	0.7"
Ken Bernard	0.6"
Geoffrey Janssen	1.3"

Crop Report (Monday May 24, through Sunday, May 30, 2021)

Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau

David Hall, Serena- This past week did not offer a lot of opportunity for fieldwork activities, with several rain events adding up to 1.5" for the reporting week. It was a good time to clean up spring equipment and mow some road ditches between rains. Those that chose to apply a portion of their nitrogen fertilizer for corn last fall are starting to apply their final nitrogen application via side-dressing, which injects the fertilizer into the ground between the corn rows.

Some of the corn has a bit of yellow color instead of the rich deep green color we are used to. A local agronomist said it is likely due to a temporary sulfur deficiency as the corn plant brings its growing point above ground and begins to uptake nutrients from its root structure. Some warmer weather should remedy that issue as the corn continues to grow.

Late planted beans have emerged, and we enjoyed spending some time with family over Memorial Day weekend. Have a safe week!

David Myer, Marseilles- We were again blessed last week with very nice rain showers totalling 0.75" for the week. The cool temps again did slow crop progress which seems strange as Chicago weatherman says it was one of the warmest May's on record, but our crops look ok but not the growth for the early plant dates we had. I guess a few of those May frosts didn't help either. The Wheat has headed out and looks very good and cutting and baking 1st crop hay is in full swing. The corn is getting post sprayed this week so from now on it's in someone's else's hands to see what yields we will receive.

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

Last week several fields of corn were sprayed with herbicide. Corn planting is complete with some fields 10"-12" tall. Last week pretty much finished up soybean planting around me. I'm seeing fields from not emerged to 4"-5" tall. The corn fields in my area are looking better as they get taller and are starting to turn a darker green. Several of my latest trail cam pictures from the deer woods are showing does with very large bellies as it's time for fawns to start being born. Need to keep an eye out for them while traveling, mowing tall grass and cutting hay. Have a good week and be safe.

Ken Bernard, Grand Ridge- For the week we received right about .45" of moisture.

Corn is looking nice, still needs some heat, weeds are also growing, spraying of corn is going on. Some beans are okay, and others are growing slow and are struggling a bit, weeds are also growing but seem to be under control where burn down was sprayed before planting.

Wheat is all headed out and probably about a month away from combining. Markets have rebounded, hard to say what they will do.

Have a good week.

Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland – It was a fairly quiet week I did receive right at 8 /10 of an inch of rain. Some spraying of corn and soybeans is going on, side dressing of nitrogen. As always people are mowing road ditches and waterways.

Rainfall:

David Hall	1.5"
David Myer	0.75"
Bill Gray	0.6"
Ken Bernard	0.45"
Geoffrey Janssen	0.8"

Crop Report (Monday June 7, through Sunday June 13, 2021)

Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau

David Hall, Serena- Another week of hot and dry weather for the area. While many parts of the LaSalle County received at least some rain from several rounds of isolated showers, our immediate area got the short end of the stick. Reported rainfall for the week is 0.11". Both corn and soybeans are growing well with the heat and sunshine, but we are also losing subsoil moisture quickly. It appears without substantial rain in the next two weeks we will start losing yield potential in at least the corn. Some soybeans received a post-emergence herbicide application over the week. Many of the herbicides used either do not activate or have reduced effect on weeds during periods of dry weather. And as a bonus they temporarily stunt the soybeans. So, we are definitely hoping for some moisture soon. Have a safe week!

David Myer, Marseilles- Another warm and humid week has passed again with scattered showers and storms and again another paltry 0.1" to report but again thankful for that. The corn is in its rapid growth stage with some plants showing stress on the hottest days. Soybeans are receiving their 1st post application for the weed and grass pressure hopefully a 2nd pass will not be necessary. The Wheat has started to turn so harvest is still looking to be around the 4th of July but definitely more plant growth this year means more straw. Most Oats in my area planted with an alfalfa type seeding are getting cut and baled as well as waterways and some roadsides. Overall crops looks good but rain will be needed soon.

Bill Gray, Tonica/Lostant -This last week I received no rain. Most fields of corn are knee high and looking good. I've started to notice some leaves are curling late in the afternoon due to lack of moisture.

Soybean fields have emerged and look good. Some early planted fields are 6-8 inches tall. Many are being sprayed with herbicide.

I've 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 haven't seen any young pheasants or quail yet but I'm hoping there are a few around. It's 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 1.5" of rain and it was about perfect. Crops still look very nice but we need some more moisture. Corn grew about a foot after the rain. The beans started growing again and the wheat has really changed color this week. Hay is just about all baled now. We are working on spraying beans and getting the combine ready to harvest wheat. Happy Father's Day weekend to all!

Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland - Another week with no rain to report. The corn is starting to curl some in the afternoon taking a little defensive mode for the dry and warmer weather we have been having. Still has a nice color to it and still growing but definitely could use

some rain. Beans are growing pretty decent. Post application of chemicals on corn is almost wrapped up. Some beans are still getting sprayed for the first or second time.

Rainfall:

David Hall	0.11"
David Myer	0.1"
Bill Gray	0.0"
Ken Bernard	1.5"
Geoffrey Janssen	0.0"

Crop Report (Monday June 14, through Sunday June 20, 2021)

Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau

David Hall, Serena-Another hot dry week has led to a decrease in subsoil moisture, but thankfully Sunday night brought 1.1 inches of much-needed rain to the immediate area. We received a little wind, but the crops showed no damage. Severe weather was spotty, and we pray for those that got hit by tornadoes in the Chicago suburbs.

Area activities for the week included cleaning up around the farm, applying second pass of herbicide on soybean fields, getting harvest equipment ready for wheat harvest, and mowing ditches. Corn is shoulder high (although I'm short) and looking good after the Sunday rain. Early soybeans are about 12" tall, while later planted soybeans are about 6" tall. Wheat harvest is 1-2 weeks away for those that grow it. Have a safe week everyone!

David Myer, Marseilles- As we head into the end of the month of June the crops look very good thanks to a generous 1" of rain that we were blessed to receive with little other storm damage in this area. Not much to report as we clean out some of the 2020 crop, mowing roadsides to control the weeds and aid in the vision for all who travel the roads, and watching the crops grow and monitor weed pressure after post spraying. Wheat harvest is getting close though the rains and cooler temps are slowing its maturity for now. The 2nd cutting of hay is near just watching the skies for a window for drying that is adequate to get it dry after its cut. And yes, the grain markets are like riding a rollercoaster as the weather forecasters change their minds.

Bill Gray, Tonica/Lostant -Last week I received 0.2" of rain. A few showers just missed our place. Most fields of corn are 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 4-10 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 evenings and catch a few bluegills 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 .65" of rain. It looked like we were going to get more on Sunday but didn't get that much. We also didn't get the damaging winds that other areas got. Crops continue to look good, but a long way to go yet. Spraying of soybeans is just about complete. Getting ready to combine wheat, it is really changing. The cooler weather is a nice reprieve from the hot humid weather. Hay is also getting close to cut the second time. Hopefully, this weekend we will get some much-needed rain. Have a safe week.

Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland-For the week we received .3" of rain. No storms or wind just a nice gentle rain by noon. I can hardly tell it rained but it was very welcome. It gives the crops a little bit of rest. The cooler days and cooler nights have taken some of the stress off the crops. Overall, the crops do have a good color, another rain would be appreciated. Some spraying of soybeans and corn is pretty well sprayed. Mowing of ditches and waterways going on, some hay getting baled. Wheat is actually

Rainfall:

David Hall	1.1"
David Myer	1.0"
Bill Gray	0.2"
Ken Bernard	.65"
Geoffrey Janssen	0.3"

Crop Report (Monday June 28 through Sunday July 4, 2021)
Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau

David Hall, Serena-We received 0.9" of rain over the course of the reporting week, all by Wednesday. The latter half of the week allowed us a chance to dry out and work on some equipment. Area activities included a second cutting of hay and wheat combining. Corn is about to tassel and will start really using nutrients and water during pollination and continuing through grain fill. Early soybeans will be flowering soon. No significant insect pressure to date. We took a trip to Missouri over Independence Day weekend and most of the crops look pretty good going south with the exception of a few ponded areas. We enjoyed some family time and fireworks. Hope everyone had a safe Fourth of July!

David Myer, Marseilles- July starts out warm and humid with relief in sight as the month moves on, rainfall past week was 2.25" which resulted in ponding and some runoff after the previous week's replenishing rain. Starting to see tassels poking out of the corn plants in a few fields but many more will be seen soon. Soybeans probably took the brunt of the excessive rains as parts of fields turned to a lighter color on the leaves, also some have started to blossom. Some hay was cut and baled but humidity and wet ground sure extended drying times. I got into my Wheat on Monday with surprising results, grain quality was very good and yields better than last year and lots of straw. If an old wives tale is true that if the fruit trees are producing a very large crop the corn crop also has same results?? We will wait and see if this comes true this year as last year frost nipped the buds and fruit trees produced very little if any.

Bill Gray, Tonica/Lostant -- Last week I received 3.6" of rain. Corn fields have grown fast with recent rains & warm weather. Most fields were 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. 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 this past week, but it has been a hot, humid one. Corn is starting to tassel now, finishing spraying of beans because of the wet weather a week ago. We combined wheat over the 4th and 5th of July; very good wheat. Baling straw this week also, glad I have ambitious young men to help out riding the straw rack! Have a good week at the 4-H fair in Ottawa.

Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland-I did receive right at 1.6" of rain since the last crop report. Crops are generally looking good. Some early planted corn is starting to tassel. Soybeans are starting to grow rapidly with the heat and moisture. Some wheat is just starting to get cut here right after the holiday. The wheat did get a darker color with the moisture and humidity we have had. Some hay is getting cut. No pest issues at this time. As always road ditch mowing continues.

Rainfall:

David Hall	0.9"
David Myer	2.25"
Bill Gray	3.6"
Ken Bernard	0.0"
Geoffrey Janssen	1.6"

Crop Report (Monday July 5 through Sunday July 11, 2021)

Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau

David Hall, Serena- For the reporting week, we received 0.1" rain which came over the weekend, as we dodged most of the scattered showers and thunderstorms. Of course, it chose to rain during the 4H Fair, but everyone had a good experience anyhow. Crops are growing tremendously. Corn is pollinating during ideal temperatures of mid 80s. A few crop-dusters are starting to show up, as farmers make decisions to apply fungicide or not. Of most concern is northern corn leaf blight in these conditions of moist humid air with moderate temperatures. Soybeans are flowering and setting new leaves, outgrowing any herbicide burn received from post-emergence applications. Second crop beans are planted in harvested wheat fields. Commodity markets still seem unsure of where prices should be, considering drought in the Dakotas, heavy rains south of I-74 into Missouri, but almost ideal growing conditions from Illinois to Ohio. Have a safe week everyone!

David Myer, Marseilles- The weather pattern has been variable the past 3 weeks from very hot and humid to cool and damp which will lead to more crop disease pressure as we move through the crop season. Many corn fields are tasseling and those yellow crop dusters are a regular site over many fields spraying fungicide to help battle the disease pressure and insure better plant health. Soybeans are struggling through the wetter soil conditions as they prefer drier conditions. Weed control on the beans appears very good, but will more weeds germinate in these perfect conditions? There is still lots of uneven soybean plants in the early planted fields. Some haying was done early last week but on hold until a dry spell shows up again. Wheat harvest enjoyed a few almost perfect days around the 4th of July but since it's on hold, many acres were harvested, and straw was baled and even some seen planters out putting soybeans into the Wheat stubble. Rainfall totaled 0.75" for the past week which is almost ideal this time of 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 Air Tractors 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. 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- Received 1" of rain for the week, corn is in full tassel and pollination mode, it also is perfect weather for disease in the corn fields. There will be a lot of airplanes flying on fungicide in the next week to 10 days when weather will cooperate for that application. Soybeans are okay but not perfect by any means, the excess of moisture is not good on the bean plant. They will probably also be sprayed sometime in the future too. Wheat straw got baled up last Tuesday and Wednesday, and I got the small seed cover crop planted for cattle hay on Thursday and Friday. Which I am glad that that is all done. Starting to mow roads and spray weeds around fields and yards, with the moisture all weeds are growing perfect which we do not like. Have a safe week !!

Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland-Another fairly wet week in the southern part of the county. I received 3.3" of rain so fieldwork is very limited. Some post spraying of beans still going on. Corn is tasseling and pollination has started.

Rainfall:

David Hall	0.1"
David Myer	0.75"
Bill Gray	0.7"
Ken Bernard	1.0"
Geoffrey Janssen	3.3"

Crop Report (Monday July 12 through Sunday July 18, 2021)
Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau

David Hall, Serena- The week started out with 0.6" of rain but dried up thereafter. Fungicide is being applied to many fields of corn and soybeans. Some soybeans were spot sprayed for weed escapes. Hay is being cut and baled and the remainder of wheat straw is getting baled as well. Overall, corn and soybeans still look great, with the exception of a couple wet spots here and there. Time to turn it over to mother nature and see what happens. Fall will be right around the corner. Have a safe week!

David Myer, Marseilles- As we are entering the last half of July our corn is pollinating and fungicide has been applied and great soil moisture so outlook on the corn crop looks very good. This past week rainfall totaled another 1" but the soybeans are struggling in many areas due to too much rain in the recent weeks hopefully in mid-August or earlier another 1-2" would be great. The beans are sure in a fast growth mode as they continue to blossom and soon set pods. Still some wheat to be harvested but the humidity shortens the harvest days and still straw bailing going on. Haying was in high gear this past week with good drying conditions and good quality hay being baled. Grain prices struggle with the drought areas in the US which don't seem to catch any showers. Hope everyone gets their vacations in soon as school resumes before we know it.

Bill Gray, Tonica/Lostant -- Last week I received 1.4" 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've 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 1.85" of rain, this week seems like we can not get out of this rain pattern. It has made the fungicide application difficult to get done. But it looks like this next week is going to be rain free. Also, hay making weather is very difficult. Some of the corn here was sprayed with fungicide last Saturday, the 17th, and the rest will be sprayed in the next week. They are just starting to spray beans this week with fungicide. The perfect weather environment is the reason that there is so much of this spraying going on along

with the rise in corn and soybean prices. Other jobs we are working on is paperwork (which I dis-like), mowing yards, road ditches and water ways. Not much else to report, just try to stay cool.

Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland- Another inch of rain to report in the southern part of the county. Soil on farms are starting to dry out but definitely taking time. Corn going through pollination well, no real issues with beetles as far as clipping Silks or tassels, seeing more airplanes doing aerial application of fungicide on corn. Some application of herbicide still going on soybeans as the ground conditions permit

Rainfall:

David Hall	0.6"
David Myer	1.00"
Bill Gray	1.4"
Ken Bernard	1.85"
Geoffrey Janssen	1.00"

Crop Report (Monday July 19 through Sunday July 25, 2021)
Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau

David Hall, Serena- A fairly quiet week both weather-wise and activity-wise. We received 0.1" total rainfall for the week. Hot and humid weather have kept activities to a minimum, but we worked on some equipment and mowed some ditches. Many took the time for a vacation before school returns. Fungicide is still being applied to both corn and soybeans. Corn is about through pollination, and the cooler forecasted temps will help with grain fill. Soybeans are beginning to set pods and look healthy. Have a safe week!

David Myer, Marseilles- No report this week.

Bill Gray, Tonica/Lostant -- Last week I received no rain. The corn & soybean crops continue to mature and look pretty good. There have been planes and helicopters applying fungicide to some of the corn fields in my area and very soon, there will be fungicide applications on soybean fields. 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 only received a trace of rain, but a lot of humidity and hot temps. Very uncomfortable weather and the fact that we had cut hay and it would not dry, it got sun bleached and was cut for five days before we could get it baled. Corn has all been sprayed with fungicide and most of the beans have been or will be sprayed. This still is perfect weather for this yield robbing fungus to grow. Looks like it may cool down this weekend a little. Not much else to report, have a safe week coming up!

Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland- Another warm week in the southern part of the county. I received .4" of rain. Corn pollination is going well. Aerial application of fungicide on corn is going on, some fungicide is being applied to soybeans. Crops are growing rapidly with the heat and moisture. No pests to report at this time. Spring equipment is still getting cleaned up. Combines are starting to emerge from the buildings getting ready for fall.

Rainfall:

David Hall	0.1"
David Myer	
Bill Gray	0.0"
Ken Bernard	0.0"
Geoffrey Janssen	0.4"

Crop Report (Monday July 26 through Sunday Aug 1, 2021)
Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau

David Hall, Serena- Crops are still looking great to date, as we experienced a week of cool dry weather with no rain to report. Corn is enjoying the mild days and cool nights for grain fill, and the soybeans are setting pods. There is a little bit of insect pressure, but not enough to warrant any pesticide applications. School is around the corner and so is harvest. The crop is truly out of our hands now and we will soon get to harvest the fruits of our labor.

Activities during the reporting week included mowing ditches and preparing harvest equipment. Markets are slowly creeping down as national yield estimates start to appear in the news. In our area, yields appear to be average to above average. This is our last report until after harvest, so we pray that everyone has a safe and fruitful harvest season. Remember to watch for slow moving farm equipment!

David Myer, Marseilles- No precipitation to report for the past week but at this time we are taking the top end off the soybean crop and maybe more if rain doesn't get here soon. They are podding and still blossoming and seed fill is soon so moisture is huge now. Unless it rains soon spraying fungicide and insecticide on the beans probably will come to a halt quickly. We may have a very large corn crop if the sweet corn yields are any indication as well as the apple trees which are overproducing their branches. Still some haying going on with good quality this year. Fall prepping has started out on the farms but our biggest dilemma is the availability of replacement parts with many shortages which started in planting season but still remains with even long wait times for these parts which could result in traveling to another dealership for them or maybe waiting for them. Grain prices have fallen as crop prospects look good nationwide. Enjoy this last few weeks of summer and please be on the lookout in late September and October as we hit the fields and move our large equipment from field to field as we only travel 15-20 mph compared to the cars and trucks at 55-65 or more .

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. 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-Received only a trace of rain this week, actually less than that. About 4 drops on windshield one afternoon. Crops continue to look good, all fungicide spraying is complete, and now there are a few weeds showing up in the bean fields but not bad. We are on the lookout for some potential problems moving into corn fields now, two forms of rust, common and southern. Also, tar spot has been spotted not too far away. Seems like the weather conditions are favorable for more problems this year. We are going to have to stay on the lookout. Summer jobs will start taking place, all the jobs we did not want to do this summer. Getting spring equipment ready for next year and getting fall equipment ready for fall. Illinois State Fair is coming up, so we are getting ready for that event to show some of our Hereford cattle. Have a SAFE fall and be cautious out there. We will have a follow up report after fall. Thanks for reading our reports again this year.

Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland-It's been an interesting year so far! With the late spring and some late frost, some dry conditions, some overly wet conditions, but overall crops are looking good in my area. Corn definitely has a nice color to it. There is still some fungicide going on both corn and soybeans as we start to head into the final stretch of this growing season. More combines are coming out of storage and starting to see a lot of equipment getting prepared for fall. Hopefully this crop develops into what we hope it should. It would be nice to have good yields and food market prices also. No rainfall in my area this week.

Rainfall:

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

Harvest 2021 Report

Provided by LaSalle County Farm Bureau

David Hall, Serena-The 2021 crop year is behind us. Harvest was interesting to say the least. Things started off smoothly with nice dry weather, but after several windstorms and a 4" rain, progress slowed immensely. Those who chose to cut soybeans first were left to fight down corn, and those who combined the corn first got stuck waiting for good bean harvest days later in the fall. The next tough decision was whether or not to apply fall fertilizer for the 2022 crop at record high prices or take a chance for lower prices in the spring. Then decide what seed traits to use for spring, not knowing availability or pricing of any herbicides.

One bright upside to the fall has been average to above average yields and market prices that have held strong through harvest and the end of the year. Hopefully rumors of shortages and supply chain issues for inputs will not come true, but time will tell. Hope everyone has had a safe harvest and new year!

David Myer, Marseilles- 2021 was another interesting year on the farm. Spring 2021 started out dry and warm in April and planting season was off to an early start, but early May brought a few showers slowing planting but the precipitation we received gave us almost perfect corn populations and the beans also were off to a great start as many planted all or part of their soybeans first this year.

July provided us with less than normal precipitation, but August was even drier with lots of warm temps and high humidity. August 10th high winds left many acres of corn with some green snap or twisted corn plants. The corn suffered from the high humidity and resulted in stalk quality that we've never seen before. The results of that caused the corn plants to deteriorate and harvest started about September 10th and the corn moisture was unbelievably dry for that early and many acres of corn were harvested then. We should've been more aggressive getting our corn out because as the fall progressed the winds created more lodging problems in the corn which ultimately slowed harvest progress. Corn reels were needed to pick up these down fields which were mostly in the northern part of the county. So a harvest that started in early September didn't end until late November for some of us with the lodged corn. 2021 yields were mostly better than 2020 but what a challenge it was. Most of the farmers haven't used a corn head reel in 20 years and we all hope we never see them in the fields again as harvest speed was less than 1/2 of normal and even less in many fields. 2022 already has many of the farmers very concerned due to supply chain problems resulting in higher input costs and supply shortages, so just how will LaSalle County farmers fare in 2022 ??

Bill Gray, Tonica/Lostant – Another interesting year is over and another crop has been harvested. Harvest this year started mid- September, which is about average. Instead of starting with soybeans though, we started with corn and didn't stop as the corn was drying down so fast and at times it seemed like we couldn't get it done fast enough. We had to deal with some windblown stalks that were down but not too much. Once we finished corn, we went right to harvesting soybeans. By then some varieties that had gotten too dry actually took on some needed moisture and weight from a few showers. Soybean harvest went very smooth once we got a few sunny days. In general, our harvest went very good with only a couple minor breakdowns. 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 fall fertilizer,

ag lime and anhydrous ammonia got applied after harvest and a 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 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 2022.

Ken Bernard, Grand Ridge-This harvest year was another one for the record books!!! The dry weather in August had us all on edge to see what yields were going to be. As we got started harvesting both corn and soybeans, we all had a sense of relief. I was happy with the yields in both crops. Corn was drying down nicely; beans were hard to combine with the green stems. Some corn was down from the late August storms. Then the heavy rains came in the middle of October. And then the corn started going down more making harvest very difficult. We got through that after putting a reel on the corn head to help get the corn in, with that the mud came in also taking the toll on combines! Many problems with that mud sticking on everything in the combines and moving parts. Most of field work got done and a lot of high fertilizer and nitrogen was applied. No one knows where the costs are going to get up to. Many projects to do this winter, besides getting ready for planting, which could start in by the middle of April. Have a SAFE winter and be careful.

Geoffrey Janssen, Rutland-The southern part of the county was blessed with a very good harvest. Yields were exceptional. Harvest started early as the warm and dry conditions dried the corn down rapidly, fortunately all of my corn was standing well. Soybean Harvest started well as we went right into that after corn. I did have a couple of fairly lengthy rain delays that definitely slowed things down, but fortunately the weather turned around which led to a nice ending for harvest with-dry ground conditions. There seems to be a lot of tillage done in both corn and soybean ground this fall. There was a large amount of nitrogen applied for next year's corn crop. Overall, it was a good very good year with with the very large yields and also having price the price of grain increasing through the late fall into early winter.