

Came Family

F A R M S

THIRD QUARTER 2023

AGRONOMY UPDATE -AARON PHELPS, AGRONOMIST

UPDATES:

Don't forget to check out our website, Camefarmsinc.com, for updates and login to your personal landlord page for more information.

Check out our social media:
Facebook – Came Farms, Inc
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LinkedIn – Came Family Farms

Writing an agronomy update in the middle of a drought isn't the easiest thing to do. You'd think it would be easy to say this worked and this didn't, but in both 2022 and 2023, there hasn't been much of anything that has worked. As I go about meeting with growers, it is evident how much the extended drought and lack of production is weighing on them. As producers, we go into each year with a plan and optimism that if that seed is put in the ground the right way with the right inputs there will be a marketable product produced at year end that provides a profit. When you put two years together where there is no production, you start to question your plans and ability to produce.

Irrigated corn in my area was average to 10-15% above average. There were two extremely hot spells that almost cost us that

crop. Luckily, it cooled off and the nighttime temperatures dropped low enough to allow us to pollinate well. We came very close to losing that crop, if temperatures hadn't moderated when they did, fields with limited water would have been lost. I lost parts of several pivots that I consult on when the irrigation wells went down during those hot spells. Early planted dry land corn was all over the place. Fields on a bit more marginal ground likely were chopped for silage, while very good bottoms on the Smoky River may have yielded up to 150 bushels. Rains were so spotty that a couple miles apart, you could see a 100-bushel swing. Late planted corn, I expect, will average in the 60-bushel range. August provided no help, and, in places, the chinch bugs pressure caused additional stress.

Irrigated soybeans were average. I'd say fields yielded from 55-85 bushels depending on planting date, maturity, rainfall, and soil type. That extreme hot spell in August cost us the late pods that usually give that extra top end yield. Dryland soybeans in general were a total failure. 0-50 bushels is the range I have heard, with most growers averaging less than 10 bushels. Many bean fields were not even harvested.

Grain sorghum was also pretty much a total failure. A good milo yield was 60 bushels while I'd put most in the 10-to-20-bushel range. From the Salina Airport to about Bridgeport, there was an area where I'd say maybe only 20% of the fields were harvested. The lack of rainfall, plus the chinch bug

pressure, made for a complete disaster. Weed control in much of the milo was not good as well. I find it interesting right around the farm, roughly in a two-mile radius, we are cutting 60–90-bushel double crop milo. That all came from one rain at just the right time in August. Outside of that area, a 4-to-20-bushel yield would pick up the bulk of our fields.

Finally, the good news! The wheat crop is off to a very good start thanks to some fall moisture. Stands are very good across the area. That cold spell the last weekend of October did cause some leaf burn, but it is just cosmetic. There is more winter annual weed pressure that has emerged thanks to the rain so we will be looking at treating them soon.

Rain makes grain. Pretty simple. This year despite the lack of rainfall, we saw that one good rain at the right time made a crop. There were just too many places that didn't get that one good rain.

We'll continue to stick with our plan and build it for an average or normal year. Some of the biggest mistakes I've seen growers make is cutting inputs in years like this. The weather turns and the production is then reduced as well. I call it planning for failure. We will continue to make our plans in preparation for a successful year, we won't build our plan in expectation of a failure.



HRW — All eyes will be on the Oct. 30 USDA Crop Progress Report since it will hold the first fall reading of winter wheat conditions. It isn't uncommon for below-average ratings, which we expect, to spark futures gains. Predicted snowfall will likely protect the HRW crop from cold following the front. But the HRW trend remains pointed lower.



Office News:

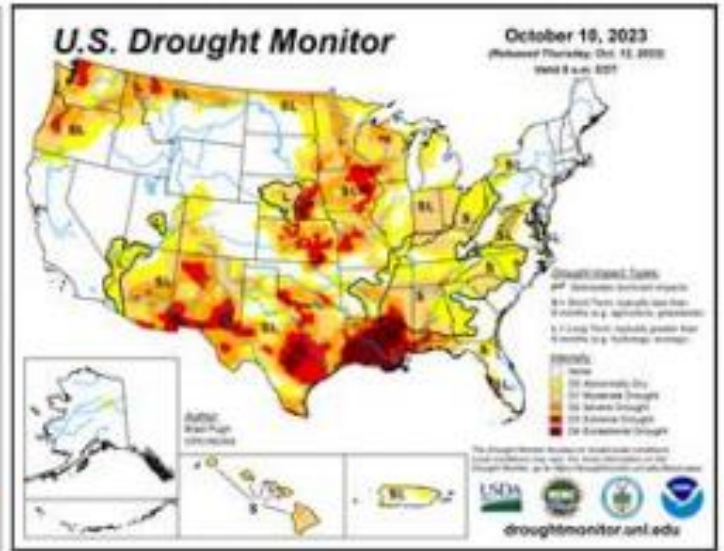
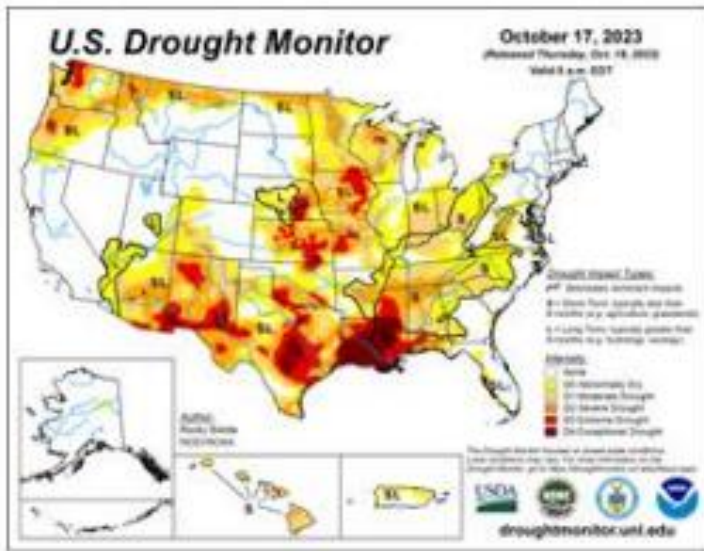
Please let us know if you have any name/ownership, address, or tax ID changes that need to be made before the new year. We are hoping tax season goes smoothly, but please let us know if you don't receive your tax documents or if they are incorrect as soon as possible so that we get them corrected and back out to you!

Shop Update: The building is up, and the overhead doors have been installed. DS&O ran a new electrical service from the road over to the shop. Our electrician has been busy wiring the shop and he got the lights powered in the first bay. The well drillers finished up all the underground for the geothermal system. The heating and air guys are waiting on parts and should get working on that system later this week. It's getting close to being done and we are looking forward to using it soon!!



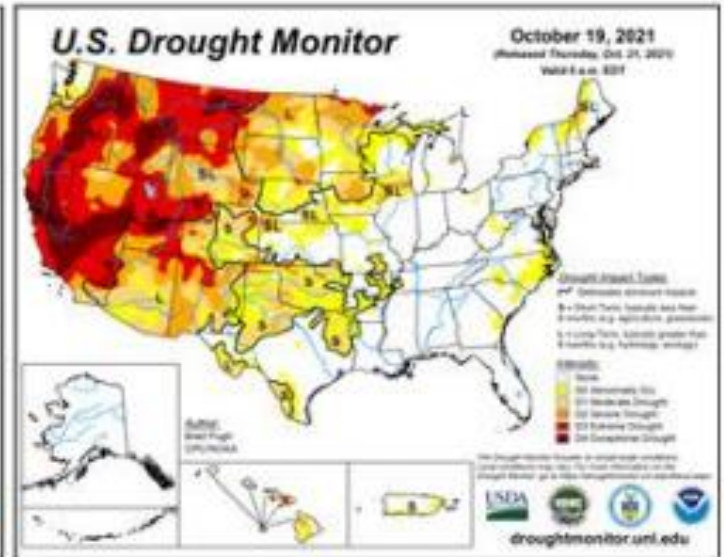
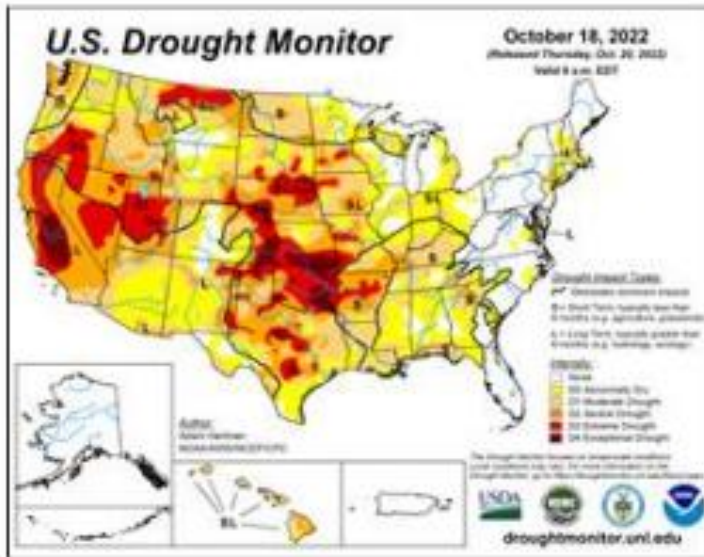
Current Conditions

Last Week Conditions



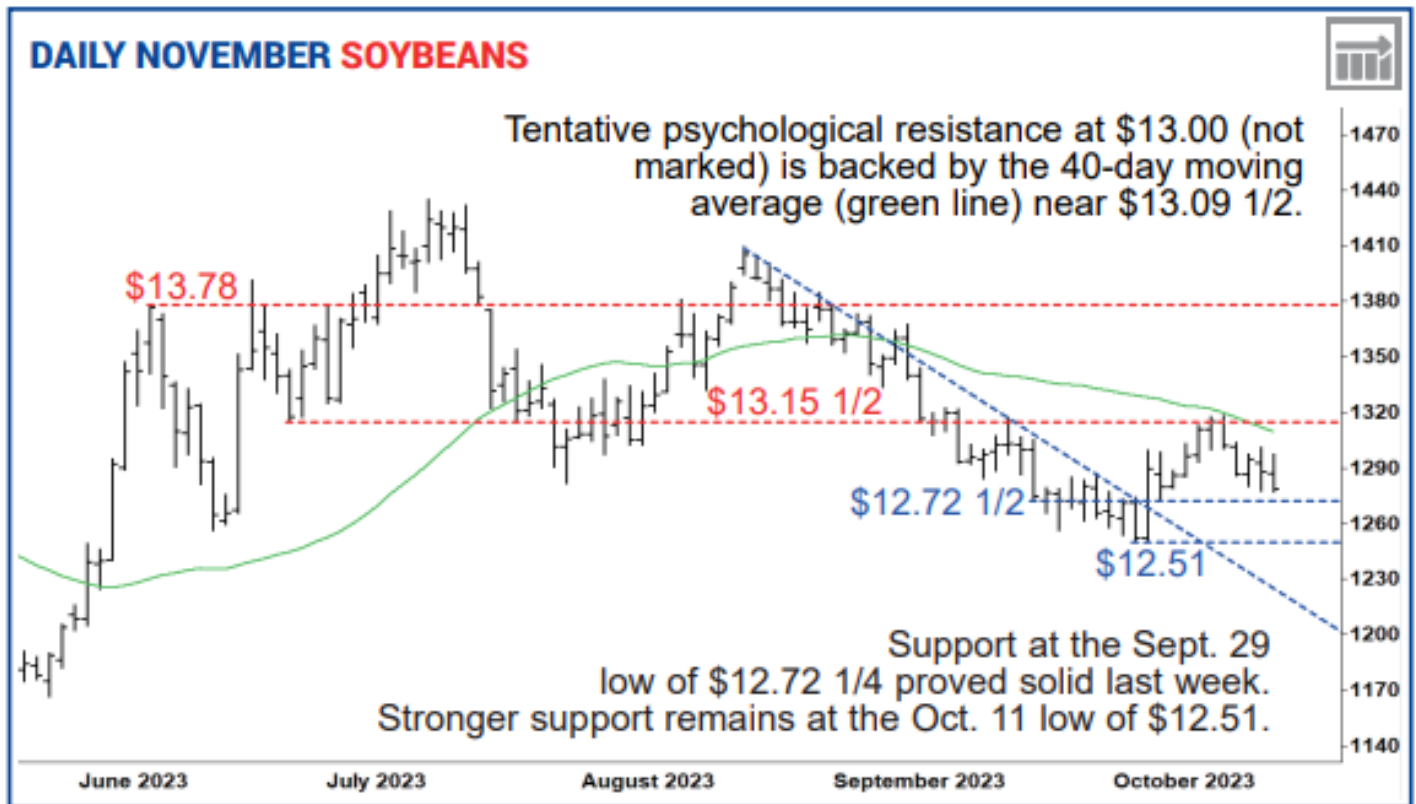
A Year Ago 2022

Two Years Ago 2021



PRECIPITATION GAUGE

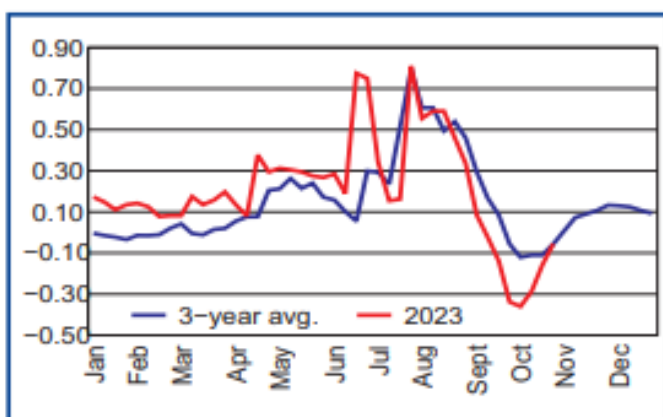
Precip Summary	Evapotranspiration	Precip at a Glance (Last updated 10/4/2023)	Precip Impact
<p>Today (since 12AM) 0.00 in.</p> <p>Last 24 Hours 0.00 in.</p> <p>Observed at: Came Farms (DI2050) for 8:10 AM CDT</p>	<p>Yesterday Actual: 0.15 in. 10 Year Avg: 0.11 in.</p> <p>Month to Date: Actual: 0.92 in. 10 Year Avg: 0.44 in.</p> <p>Year to Date: Actual: 47.17 in. 10 Year Avg: 39.44 in.</p>	<p>Month to Date</p> <p>Year to Date</p> <p>(in.)</p>	<p>Condition: Very Dry For: Saline County, KS</p> <p>30 Day Precip: Actual: 1.63 in. Normal: 2.71 in. % of Normal: 60%</p> <p>60 Day Precip: Actual: 3.96 in. Normal: 6.09 in. % of Normal: 65%</p>



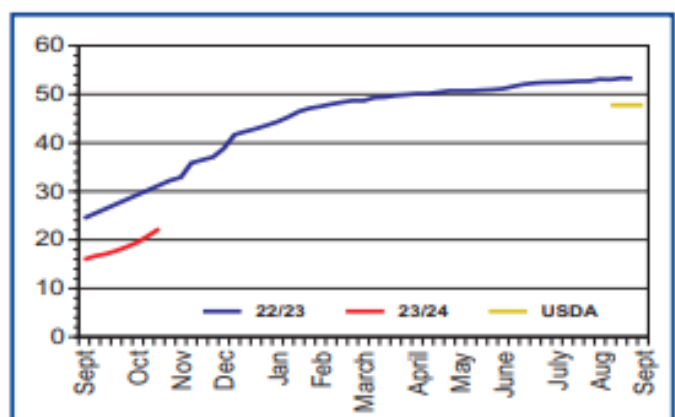
SOYBEANS - Fundamental Analysis

Soy export news has improved lately, with back-to-back weeks with marketing-year high weekly export sales being augmented by daily sales announcements. Forecast precip across the central U.S. may also presage improved shipping conditions on the Mississippi River. Talk of less-than-ideal South American growing conditions has offered background support. That was supplemented by last week's rumor China had cancelled some shipments from Brazil (see *News page 1*), as well as an industry official's pronouncement that Argentina will soon run out of to crush. And yet, soybean futures struggled last week. Nevertheless, post-harvest strength seems likely to emerge.

AVERAGE SOYBEAN BASIS (NOV.)



SOYBEAN EXPORT BOOKINGS (MMT)



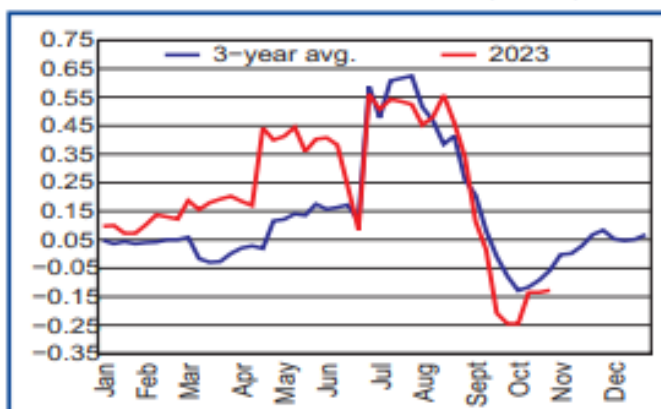
DAILY DECEMBER CORN



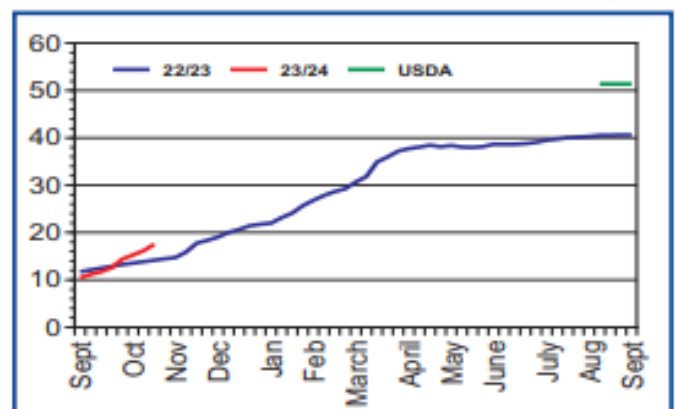
CORN - Fundamental Analysis

The financial markets seemed to undercut commodities last week, with stock indexes dropping to five-month lows and bond yields and the U.S. dollar revisiting recent highs. Those factors, along with harvest pressure, sent corn futures sliding back toward their September lows. Despite the early autumn rally, corn export sales for the week of Oct. 19 topped expectations. But seasonal weakness could have the market testing support in the short run. Recent South American weather hasn't been conducive to strong crop production and El Niño may keep it that way. These conditions make us willing to wait on rallies to boost sales.

AVERAGE CORN BASIS (DEC.)



CORN EXPORT BOOKINGS (MMT)

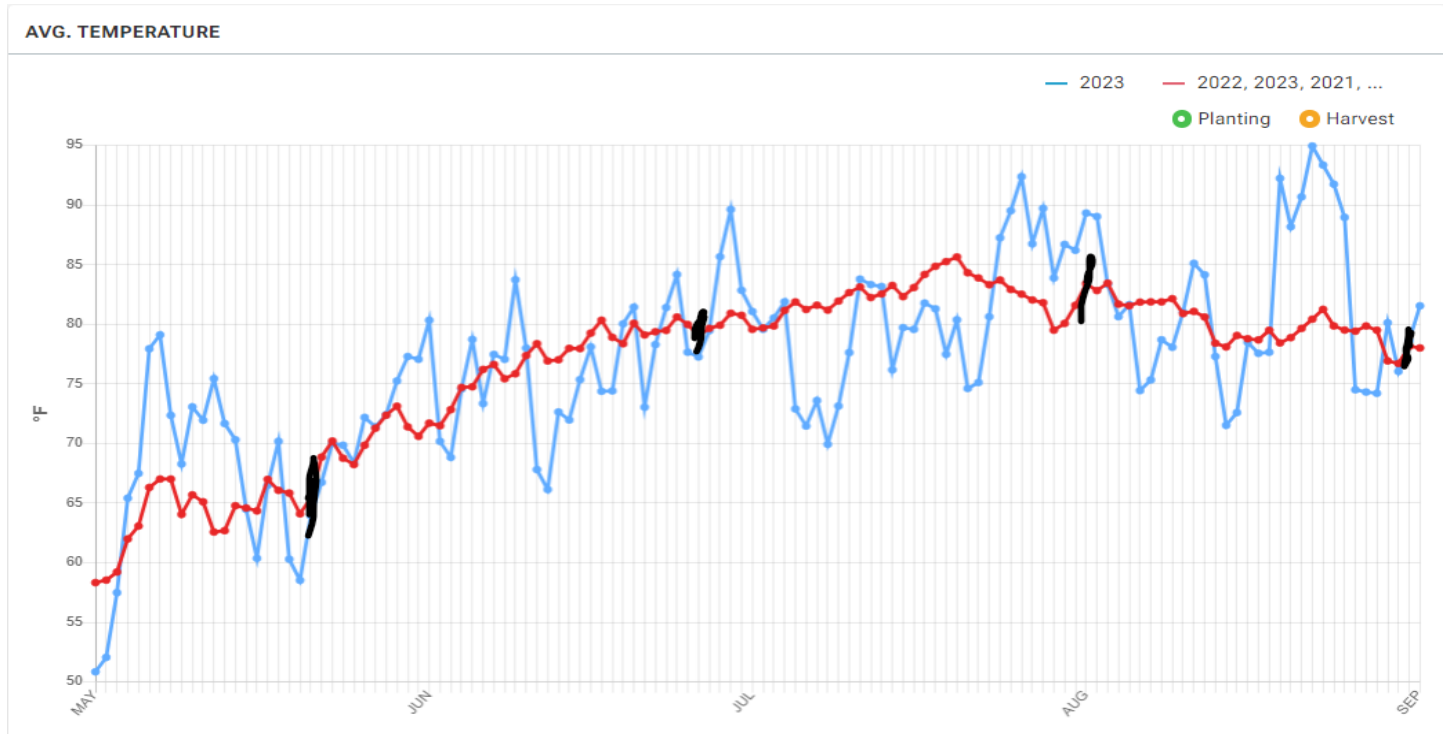




We were recognized at a home Ell-Saline football game for our donation to the new digital score board for the school and community. Pictured from left: Laurie Came, Kyle Came, Owen Bradley, Darcy Bradley, Joel Came.

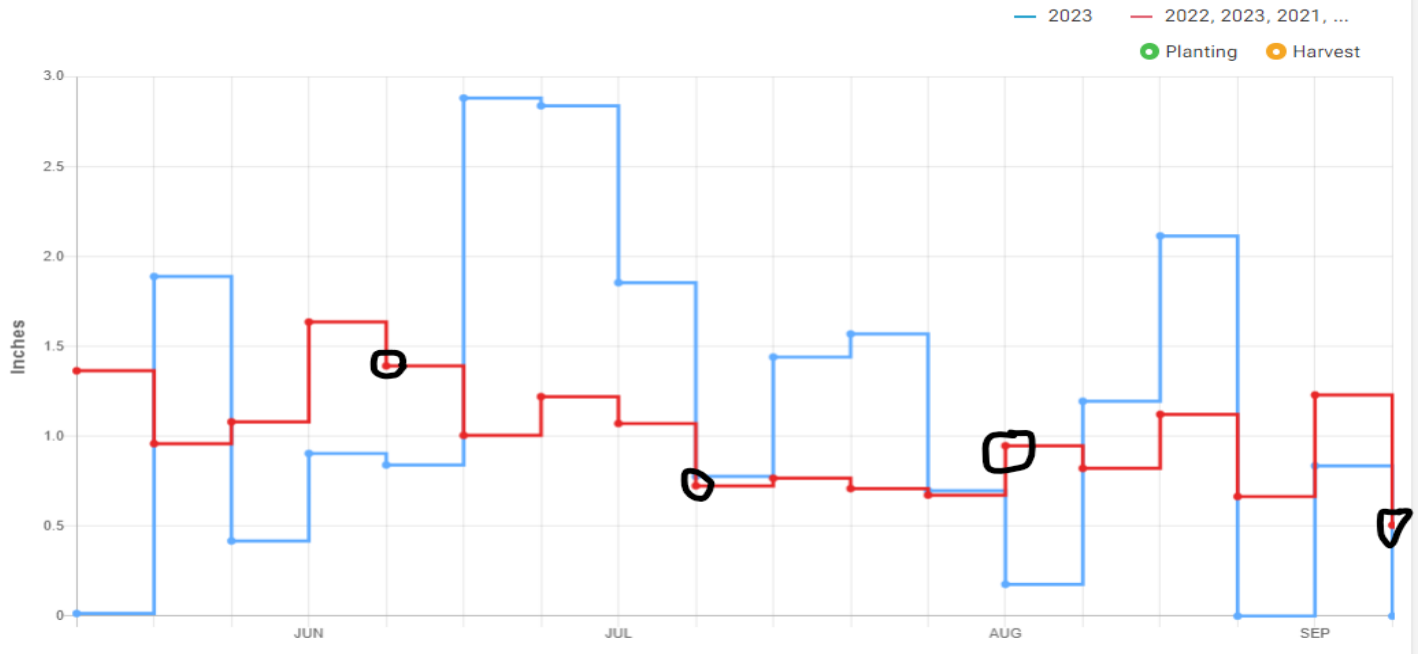
We were honored to sponsor the Ell-Saline FFA Leadership Camp!!

I know some of you had some really good early planted corn or heard of some really good early corn yields. This year, our late corn has not done well. I would like to explain our decision to make the switch to late planted corn four years ago. We are trying to find a peak in average rainfall and a decrease in temperature to time our pollination.



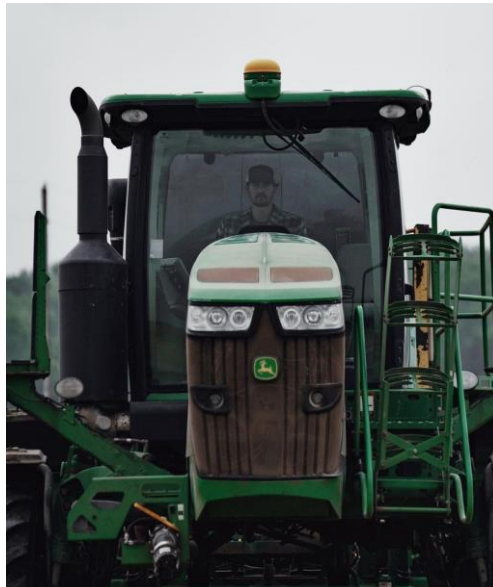
The red line on this chart shows our 24-year average temperatures. Each of the black lines is the first of the month. As you can see, the temperatures trend up until July 20th and then trend down through August. We believe that high temperatures during pollination have hurt our corn yield as much as dry conditions do, if not more. The blue line on this chart is the average temperature for 2023. As you can see, the heat peaked in late July and then again in late August this year, the opposite of the normal trend. Both times lasted a week and both times we had corn pollinating.

PRECIPITATION



The red line on this chart shows our 24-year precipitation average. The first circle on this chart is June 4th, the second circle is July 2nd, the third circle is July 30th, and the fourth circle is September 1st. As you can see, the month of July is usually drier and precipitation trends up in August.

Since our long-term average temperatures trend down in the month of August and our precipitation trends up in the month of August, we decided to plant in June. Our goal is to build consistency in our corn program. We think that planting in June will help us accomplish this. We know that there will be years that buck the long-term averages, like this year, but we think that our corn yields will be more consistent in the long term.



Some of the guys got to participate in a photo shoot for Boot Barn. If you see some of these pictures on social media, they really are our guys and our equipment!!

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