

Corn and Grain Sorghum Weekly Update – July 21, 2023

Division of Agriculture, University of Arkansas System, Cooperative Extension Service

By: Chuck Capps, Verification Coordinator – Corn & Grain Sorghum

General Information

As seen in Table 1 below, heat units and crop stage along with a few notes about field activities are listed for each location. Weather data is collected at the weather station placed at each individual field. We are utilizing AgSense telemetry units with soil moisture sensors placed at 6, 12, 18, and 30 inch to collect soil moisture data. We input this data to the AR Soil Calc app to initiate irrigations.

The Corn & Grain Sorghum Research Verification Program fields are moving toward maturity quickly with all fields being at least R4 and a few at R5. The fields at the R4 growth stage are within a few days of reaching R5. We have terminated irrigation in the Drew County field and the Jefferson County field only needing 1 inch of water to finish the crop. Southern rust has been found in SE Arkansas, but most all of the corn in the area are well beyond the growth stage that would require a fungicide application. All of the Corn Verification fields are beyond the growth stage we would recommend treating for Southern rust.

Table 1.

County	Heat Units	Crop Stage	Field Notes
Clark	2133	R4	The field is very close to reaching R5. 4.3" of rainfall.
Clay	2265	R5	The field has reached R5 and was being irrigated Monday 7/17. 0.52" of rainfall.
Drew	2556	R5	The field is a little over 60% starch in the kernels and has 1.78" of available soil moisture, so irrigation has been terminated.
Faulkner	2226	R5	The field has reached R5. Being irrigated with center pivot, field will need at least 2 more irrigations. 2.73" of rainfall.
Independence	2181	R4	The field is very close to R5. 0.53" of rainfall.
Jefferson	2373	R5	The field is 40% starch in the kernels and has 1.59" of available soil moisture. The Soil Calc app is showing the field needs 2.5" of water to finish the crop. So an inch of rain or quick irrigation would finish the crop.
Lonoke	2206	R5	The field has over 50% damage from complete plant lodging and plants snapping right below the ear. 0.81" of rainfall.
Mississippi	2365	R5	The field is 30% starch in the kernels and has 0.99" of available soil moisture. The Soil Calc app is showing the field needs 3.2" of water to finish the crop. 2.2" of rain or one irrigation assuming 70% efficiency or greater would finish the crop.
White	2174	R4	The field is very close to R5. 0.82" of rainfall.