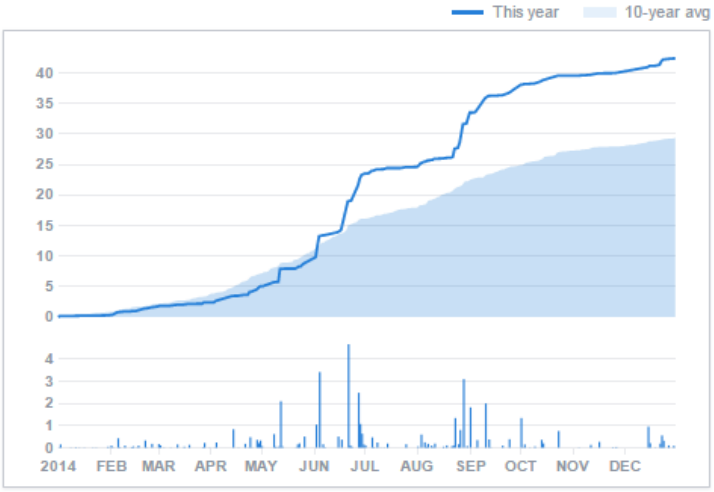
Nebraska On-Farm Research Network

Planting Depth of Corn

Study ID: 029053201404
County: Dodge
Soil Type: Moody – Silty Clay Loam
Planting Date: 5/6/2014
Harvest Date: 11/8/2014
Population: 28,000
Row Spacing: 36”
Hybrid: P1023
Reps: 8
Soil Test Values: not available
Previous Crop: Soybeans
Tillage: No-Till
Herbicides: **Pre:** 4 oz Balance Flexx + Atrazine 4 L + 1 pt Parallel Plus – 4/15/2014
Post: 3 oz Laudis + 1 qt Cornerstone Plus + ½ pt Atrazine 4 L – 6/11/2014
Insecticides/Fungicides: Crusier 250 seed treatment

Fertilizer: 30 gal UAN 32% – Mid April, 6 gal MAP + 7 lb Zinc sulfate in furrow – 5/6/2014
Notes: Hailed at V5 (6/4/14)
Irrigation: Not irrigated.
Rainfall:



Introduction: The purpose of this study was to determine if the planting depth of corn influenced final harvest populations, yield, and net return.

Results:

	Yield† (bu/acre)	Moisture (%)	Harvest Pop	Net Return ‡
1.75”	164 B*	16.2 B	22,213 A	$574.49
2.25”	170 A	16.3 A	22,746 A	$594.69
P-Value	*0.0148*	*0.0956*	*0.8042*	--

†Bushels per acre corrected to 15.5% moisture.
*Values with the same letter are not significantly different at a 90% confidence level.
‡Net return based on $3.50 corn.

Summary: The 2.25” planting depth had significantly higher yields (6 bu/ac increase) and had higher moisture. Stand counts for both planting depths were not significantly different. The producer believes that following the hail event at V5 the deeper planted seeds had less soft seedling rot and therefore had healthier plants. The deeper seeding was slower to come up than the shallower seeding, but the stand was more uniform.

Sponsored by: University of Nebraska Lincoln

In partnership with: Soybeans Nebraska Soybean Board; Nebraska Corn Board; Nebraska Corn Growers Association