



Iowa Crop Tour results

Corn: 198.43 bu. per acre

Soybeans: 1,562.54 pods in 3'x 3'

Minn. Crop Tour results

Corn: 202.86 bu. per acre

Soybeans: 1,246.86 pods in 3'x 3'

Pro Farmer national corn and soybean crop estimates

Corn: 16.204 billion bu.; Average yield of 182.7 bu. per acre
Corn $\pm 1\%$ = 16.366 billion bu. to 16.042 billion bu.; 184.5 bu. to 180.9 bu. per acre

Soybeans: 4.246 billion bu.; Average yield of 53 bu. per acre
Soybeans $\pm 2\%$ = 4.33 billion bu. to 4.16 billion bu.; 54.1 bu. to 51.9 bu. per acre

The national estimates above reflect Pro Farmer's view on production and yields. They take into account data gathered during Crop Tour and other factors such as weather during Crop Tour, crop maturity, historical differences in Tour data versus USDA's final yields, areas outside those sampled on Tour, etc. With USDA incorporating FSA certified acreage into its August crop estimates this year and our analysis showing it was a reasonable estimate, we made no acreage adjustments from USDA's August Crop Production Report.

Corn

Profound discoveries were made across the Tour states, with drier-than-expected conditions in Ohio. The Indiana and Illinois corn crops were decent but lacked luster. Early-season stresses and intense summer heat have bolstered crop stress across the eastern Corn Belt.

Corn in South Dakota and Nebraska showed strong potential, but are not free of disease risk. There was no shortage of moisture in either state.

Reports of disease increased drastically in Iowa, but yield potential is strong. The crop is far from finished, which spurs concern of how the crop final crop will look.

Minnesota is the obvious bright spot. A record Tour yield was carved with minimal disease pressure likely allowing for a solid finish.

Soybeans

Ohio has potential for an impressive crop, with pod counts second only to 2014. Late-season heat and dryness may ding top-end.

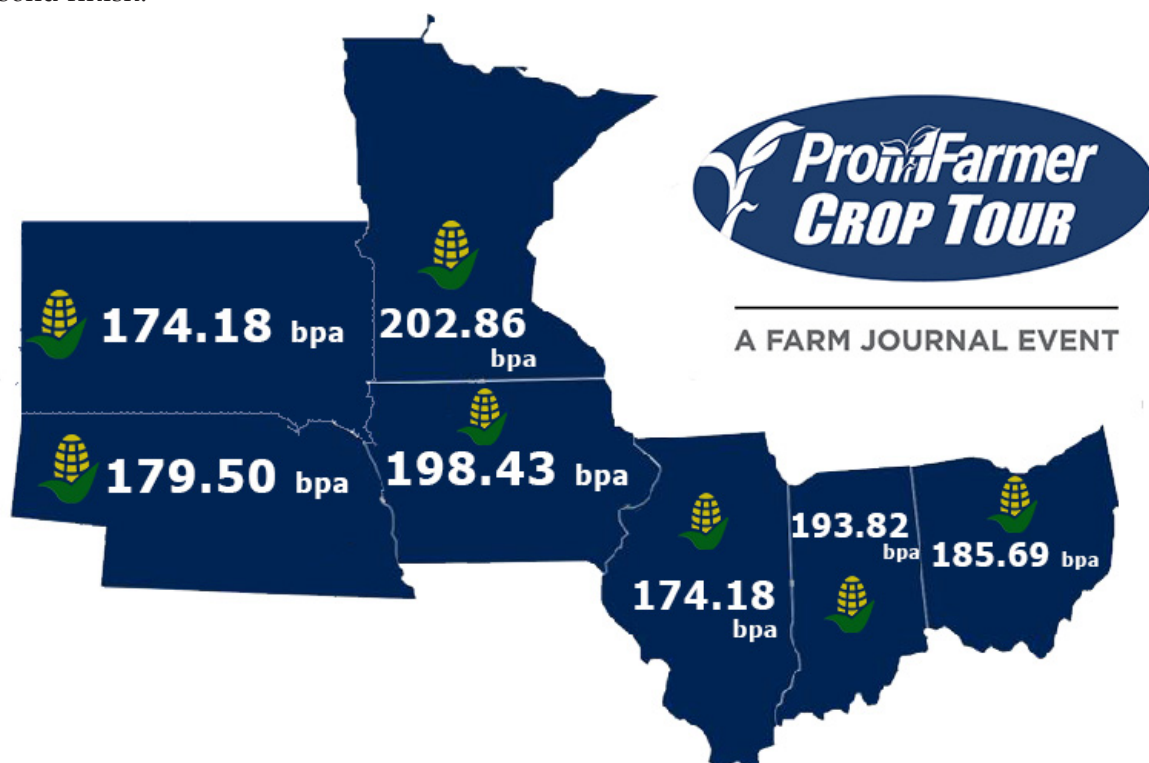
Indiana pod counts were strong, but down 2.3% from last year. The crop was more mature than year's past, indicating stress could be pushing the crop toward the finish line.

Illinois had stellar pod counts, but moisture was light and the crop was the most mature in Tour history.

Iowa beans measured a record and are on pace for maturity, but disease presence could ultimately hinder potential.

Soil moisture in South Dakota should allow the crop to end on a high note with maturity a touch ahead of schedule.

Mighty Minnesota eclipsed the 2010 record and has the strongest moisture profile since 2007.



2025 Pro Farmer Crop Tour

– Extreme heat fatigue in the eastern Belt; western crops show strong potential, but disease riddled –

The 2025 Pro Farmer Crop Tour was widely anticipated in the wake of USDA's notable increase in both national yield and acreage in the August Production Report earlier this month. Scouts on the eastern leg of the Tour had a steamy start to kick off the week. Variability was a common descriptor, with wetter-than-normal planting conditions and hot temps spurring stress throughout much of the growing season. While the crop certainly has potential, August weather will have the final say.

Ohio: 185.7 bu. per acre; 1,287 pods in 3'x3'

Conditions in Ohio were measured to be the driest since 2008, as rated by scouts, though more southern areas were reported to have near-perfect conditions. Nonetheless, inconsistencies were quickly pointed out as varying yields were discovered out of the gate but improved as the Tour advanced westward. One team pulled a 320-bu.-per-acre sample, with another showing a 100 bu. variance within 15 miles. Soybean pod counts also showed a fair amount of variability, with rains and cooler temps needed for the crop to finish strong.

Indiana: 193.8 bu. per acre; 1,377 pods in 3'x3'

Scouts uncovered a record corn yield in Indiana, which marginally topped the previous record in 2021 of 193.48 bu. per acre. However, disease pressure and a push to maturity could hinder the crops' ultimate potential to crank out an actual record. It was noted the corn crop looks similar to a year ago, while soybeans might fall short in comparing to 2024 when the dust settles. Indiana's soybeans crop might have weathered the early-season stress a little more gracefully than the corn crop, but hot, dry August conditions raise uncertainty around how the growing season is finalized.

Illinois: 199.6 bu. per acre; 1,479 pods in 3'x3'

Results from Illinois have left some scratching their heads, with measured yield potential estimated to be down 4.6 bu. from last year's Crop Tour findings. A planting season riddled with persistent moisture could be a culprit, along with intense heat throughout much of the growing season. The corn crop has faced a period of constant stress, which will certainly show up in the way of reduced yield, regardless of how good it looks from the road. However, the Illinois soybean crop could be a whopper, though moisture and cooler temperatures would certainly be beneficial as the crop inches toward the finish line.

Scouts on the western leg kicked the week off in South Dakota and Nebraska, where an impressive crop was measured. However, risks loom and stir question around the possibility of a record crop. In rather unusual fashion, Mother Nature has furnished the northern and western Corn Belts with plenty of moisture this year. However, boots-on-the-ground observations indicate too much moisture may not have not been such a good thing, as the Tour advanced into Iowa and Minnesota.

S. Dakota: 174.2 bu. per acre; 1,188 pods in 3'x3'

There is strong potential for South Dakota's corn and soybean crops, though neither is without risk. Scouts discovered the highest yield since 2020, which was 5 bu. higher than this year's findings, so it's unlikely the corn crop is a record. However, ear counts, grain length and kernels around were all up notably from a year ago. The moisture profile in South Dakota was noted to be unprecedented for the third week of August. For soybeans, diseases are present due to high moisture, though the crop seems to be on its way to a solid finish.

Nebraska: 179.5 bu. per acre; 1,348 pods in 3'x3'

While conditions have been ripe for a potentially solid corn crop, disease pressure is threatening to take the shine off a pretty glitzy crop. Areas of Nebraska have a very healthy crop, southern rust is certainly present in much of the state's crop. Scouts indicated a push to maturity as result, with husks turning a premature brown and ears dropping. The soybean crop is carrying tremendous potential, with pod counts scoring a record notably higher on the year, with notable moisture levels. Though this has created the perfect environment for a host of diseases, which means the crop isn't without risk.

Iowa and Minnesota crop observations

Final tallies were released on Thursday for both Iowa and Minnesota, which included records for each state. Corn crops in both states measured well over a year ago, with Minnesota the only state to average over 200 bu. per acre this year. In Iowa, there is lingering concerns of how the crop will finish due to the presence of heavy disease pressure. Meanwhile, soybeans in each state both scored records. Minnesota's average pod count of 1,247 in a 3'x3' square wiped out the previous record set back in 2010 and is on pace for maturity and has the strongest moisture since 2007. While Iowa's average pod count of 1,348.4 shows whopper potential, it could be stifled by sudden death syndrome and a host of other diseases.



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#PFTour25 Crop Comments

Please send crop comments to editors@profarmer.com

"Defiance and Paulding counties in Ohio – lots of variability, four stops averaged 160.4."

"First stop of the day, Tipton County Indiana. Approximately 178 bpa corn."

"Low ear count and poor pollination around Allen County, Ohio."

"Word of the day so far: variability. This is our first stop in Sangamon County, Ill. Yield check: 219.22. USDA had this county at 248.2 last year."

"Howard County Indiana – North of Kokomo. Lots of tip back in the field. Yield estimate came to 158 bpa."

"At least in our car today, and it might just be our car ... the Nebraska route we are on has been a bit disappointing compared to what we were expecting and what we saw on the same route last year. Corn and especially soybeans."

"14 stops in Nebraska; Antelope, Boone, Greeley and Howard counties. Avg. pods in a 3'x3' – 906, down 22% [from the] 3-year avg. Avg. yield-170, same as 3-year avg."

"First corn count over 200 in Illinois for our team in seven stops. Fulton County."

"First stop today 2 miles west of Ames, Iowa. Yield was good with corn maturing quickly. The population was 33,350 with a yield of 213. Soybeans had 1,159 pods in a 3'x3' area."

"Sixth stop 1.5 miles South of Goldfield, Iowa. Disease coming on fast with corn mid dent. Yield was 208. Soybeans had pods of 1,339 in 3'x3' area."

"Stop seven in Blue Earth Co. in Minnesota. New high for the day. Could have been even better, there were skips in rows. Had a 22, 18 and 20 around. Yield check 232.5."

"I'll never forget Minnesota last year on tour. In 11 years I had never seen every single field showing some kind of early moisture damage. The results showed that. Also I remember beans being very weak around here two years ago. Today my route was not better than 2022 or 2021."

"Seventh stop 2 miles east of Clarion, Iowa. Well it happened, a big yield finally. Yield of 261 with 32,000 population. Lots of disease, especially rust with milk line not showing yet. Soybeans had 1,888 pods in a 3'x3' area."

Grundy county, Iowa stop. Sprayed three weeks ago. Farmer was shocked with the disease pressure. 229 bu. and 2,146 pods stop. Good numbers but still has 3/4 milk line to finish."

ASA presses President Trump

The American Soybean Association has urged President Donald Trump to prioritize soybeans amid ongoing U.S.-China trade talks. The group issued a warning, stating retaliatory tariffs, "are shutting American farmers out of their largest export market going into the 2025 soybean harvest." In a letter sent last week to the White House, ASA called for the removal of Chinese tariffs on U.S. soybeans and commitments for futures purchases. A [white paper](#) was also released, which outlined the financial consequences of losing long-term market share in China. "U.S. farmers are standing at a trade and financial precipice," stated ASA President Caleb Ragland. He then further outlined producers are paying more for inputs and equipment while soybean prices have suffered.

Bessent satisfied with China tariffs

U.S. Secretary Scott Bessent indicated the U.S. is satisfied with the current tariff set up with China in an interview last week. "We're very happy" with the situation with China and "the status quo is working pretty well," he stated. The Trump administration has dialed down its confrontational tone with China recently to secure a summit with Chinese Premier leader Xi Jinping to work out a trade deal. "China is the biggest revenue line in the tariff income, so if it's not broke, don't fix it, Bessent touted. "We have had very good talks with China. I imagine we'll be seeing them again before November."

USDA cuts solar funding

USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins announced Monday the department will stop subsidizing solar projects on farmland, arguing they drive up land costs for farmers. Speaking in Tennessee, Rollins offered no details, and USDA has not released formal guidance. However, a USDA-Rural Development memo obtained by Agri-Pulse, shows the agency plans to ban solar and wind projects from the Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program. It also says the Rural Energy for America Program will limit guaranteed loans and grants only to small-scale projects.

FOMC minutes ahead of JH summit

FOMC minutes released last week showed most Federal Reserve officials believe the risk of problematic inflation outweighs concerns over the U.S. labor market at their July meeting, as trade tariffs fueled a growing divide within the Fed's rate-setting committee. Several FOMC members emphasized U.S. inflation has exceeded 2% for an extended period, which has increased the risk of longer-term inflation expectations becoming unanchored in the event of drawn-effects of higher tariffs on inflation. Fed Chair Jerome Powell spoke on Friday morning at the Jackson Hole Fed Symposium.

Will this year's crops make it to the finish line?

By Pro Farmer editors

It was the best of crops, it was the worst of crops. The words potential and disease both were often on scouts lips during the week. Dryness in the East was met with muddy boots in the West with each side of the Tour having staunchly different observations. The West started out on a strong note with the best crops seen in over five years as South Dakota blew above expectations. Nebraska followed up with the second-biggest Tour yield ever. The eastern leg of the Tour was quickly met with arid soils, which surprised scouts given the ample rainfall apparent through much of the Corn Belt over the course of the growing season. Dryness quickly turned into disease with much of the corn crops facing a myriad of fungal diseases.

The crop needs time to finish

Disease was taking its toll on all legs of the Tour. Southern rust and tar spot were common throughout much of Indiana, Illinois and Iowa. Minnesota has some disease, while South Dakota and Ohio faired the best. Diseases are expected to take the top end off of expected record yield in top production states, pulling the national average down from expectations. Strong yields found in the western states will offset some of the lower yields anticipated in the east.

Strong soybean crop

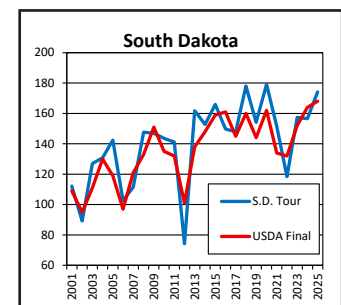
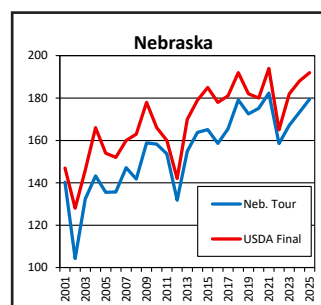
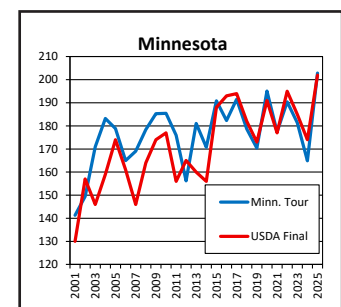
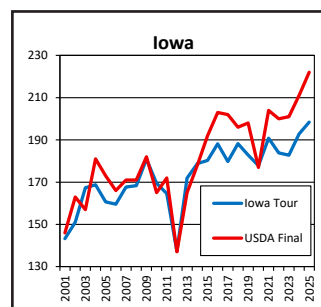
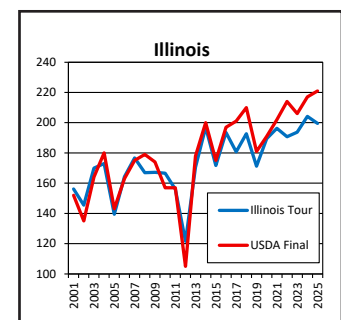
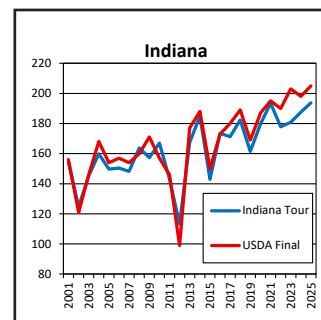
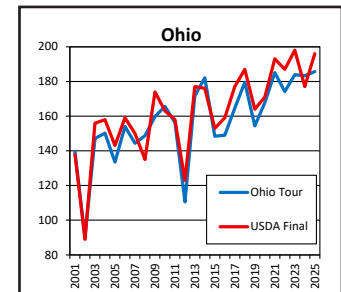
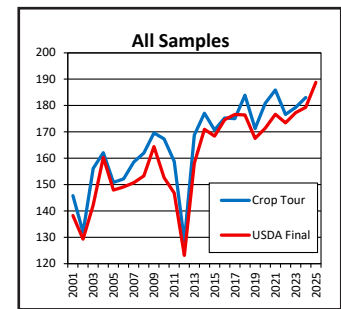
Soybeans proved impressive across all seven Tour states. Pod counts were up in six of the seven Tour states, with Indiana just below last year. Dryness on the eastern leg was noted in the soil by scouts, showing a need for rain to help get the eastern crop to the finish line. The western leg was met with extreme pod count numbers but more SDS presence far too early in the season to not be yield-limiting. All in all, the factory is there to help boost yields to a record, but timely rains are a must in the east to make it happen.

A year of variance

Yield checks varied greatly not only from district to district but from stop to stop. While that variance historically is a weight on yield, the potential for many of the crops that were not expected to smash through records, such as South Dakota, Nebraska and Minnesota, will help lift the national average and make up for some of the disease loss in the east. This crop has all the potential, and that's what was measured this week. It's going to be hard to keep the potential in either crop with the challenges it has with disease pressure throughout major production states and dryness in the east.

Historical Difference — Tour Yield Versus USDA Final (avg. since 2001)		
Ohio	ADD	4.6 bu.
Indiana	ADD	4.2 bu.
Illinois	ADD	3.9 bu.
Iowa	ADD	6.7 bu.
Nebraska	ADD	14.1 bu.
Minnesota	SUB	6.5 bu.
S. Dakota	SUB	5.3 bu.
7-State	SUB	6.0 bu.

Corn yields generated by Crop Tour typically find the year-to-year trend in each state. Apply the historical difference to the calculated yield in each state. Most importantly, use the historical difference on the All Samples average yield to get close to USDA's final yield.



On each of the charts above, USDA's 2024 yield in the Aug. 1 yield estimate. For all other years, USDA's yield is the final yield.