

Iowa Crop Tour results

Corn: 193.98 bu. per acre

Soybeans: 1,362.93 pods in 3'x 3'

Minn. Crop Tour results

Corn: 199.01 bu. per acre

Soybeans: 1,257.80 pods in 3'x 3'

Pro Farmer national corn and soybean crop estimates

Corn: 15.344 billion bu.; Average yield of 173.2 bu. per acre

Corn +/-1% = 15.498 billion bu. to 15.191 billion bu.; 175.0 bu. to 171.5 bu. per acre

Soybeans: 4.572 billion bu.; Average yield of 53.3 bu. per acre

Soybeans +/- 2% = 4.664 billion bu. to 4.481 billion bu.; 54.4 bu. to 52.2 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

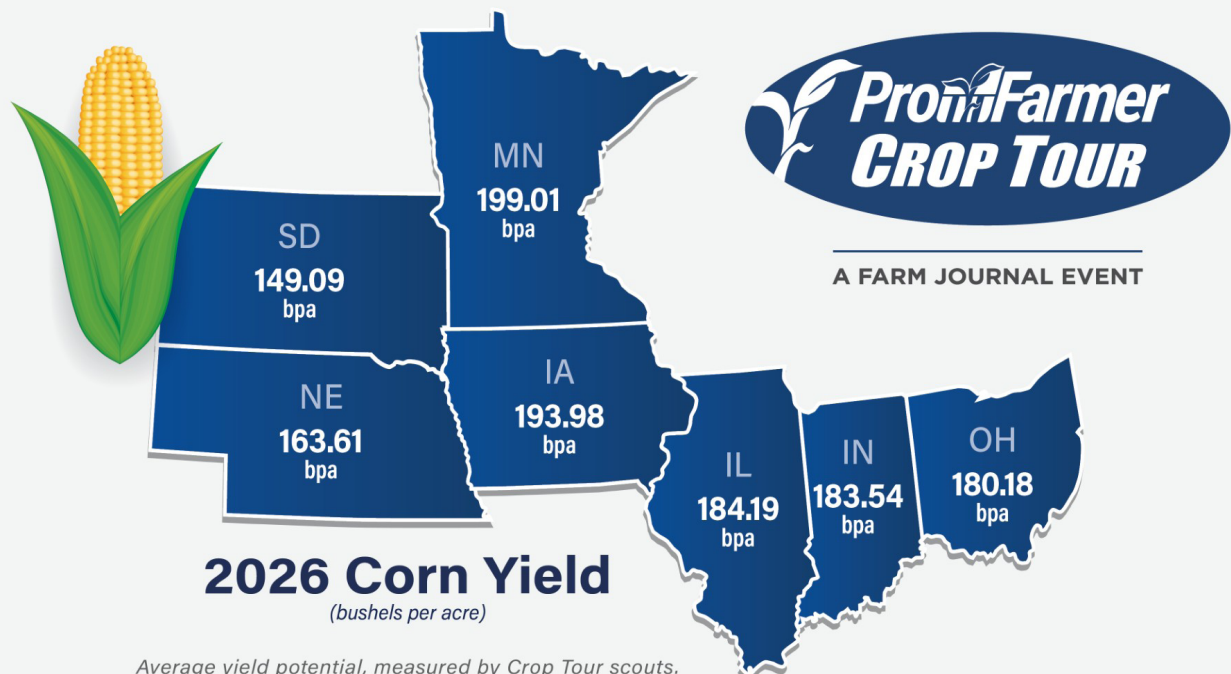
Eastern states showed the impact of excess moisture and early stresses leading to uneven stands and underwhelming yields relative to last year and expectations. Western states reflected heat, moisture shortfalls and related tip-back/disease risks, limiting potential despite some later rains. Iowa held up reasonably well with lower disease than 2025, while Minnesota stood out.

Scouts noted persistent variability in ear counts and grain fill across routes, with cooler nights in the north aiding recovery. Overall, the Tour underscored a more tempered national outlook, with the focus now on September weather, which will determine final kernel development and potential late-season losses.

Soybeans

Soybean pod counts painted a more nuanced picture than corn, with Minnesota delivering the Tour's only year-over-year gain and Iowa staying competitive against longer-term averages. Eastern fields battled excess moisture that produced patchy stands and modest counts, while western dryland acres suffered sharper reductions from midsummer heat.

Rising SDS and brown stem rot in parts of Iowa introduced fresh late-season risk, yet overall disease remained less severe than last year. The crop still has room to either firm or fade before harvest. Final seed size and fill will hinge on cooler nights and timely rains as the growing season winds down.



2026 Pro Farmer Crop Tour

–Soggy conditions weigh on eastern Belt; western crops see pressure from heat–

A big question heading into this year's Crop Tour was whether the eastern Corn Belt could offset drought stress seen in the west. Scouts found results in the east consistently underwhelming. Wet conditions sandwiched around hot weather this summer took a toll, with corn yields across Ohio, Indiana and Illinois a disappointment relative to USDA's expectations for higher yields in Ohio and Indiana and a modest fall in Illinois. Soybean pod counts were consistently below a year-ago and continued wet weather is a concern, but a drying period and ample soil moisture could make for a strong finish.

Ohio: 180.18 bu. per acre; 1,197.25 pods in 3'X3'

Rains that inundated the eastern Corn Belt just ahead of the Tour made for wet conditions, the mirror image of last year, which was rated by scouts as the driest since 2008. Variability was on display, with underdeveloped corn in northeast Ohio, while stands further south were more mature, though with corn showing signs of nitrogen deficiency. Tough stands in soybeans reflected already wet soils ahead of recent rains. Sunshine is crucial for crops to improve into harvest.

INDIANA: 183.54 bu. per acre; 1,318.64 pods in 3'X3'

Corn yields found on the Tour in Indiana also fell from last year, again going the opposite direction of USDA's expectations – a rare occurrence. Flooding and water damage were evident in the Hoosier State, with some routes finding improved yields as they moved west. Pollination issues were evident. Ear counts were down 1.5% from last year, with grain length down 3.9%. Soybean pod counts were down 4.2% but a break from rains could allow the crop to round out the growing season.

ILLINOIS: 184.19 bu. per acre; 1,430.37 pods in 3'X3'

Illinois corn yields came in nearly 8% below last year's Tour and the three-year average, adding to disappointing results in the eastern Corn Belt. Excessive moisture took a toll. Grain length was down 4.8% from last year, with kernels down 2.3%. Signs of nitrogen deficiency as a result of soaked soils were also evident. The soybean pod count fell 3.3% from 2025 but was 2.9% above the three-year average. Sufficient soil moisture could set the stage for a strong finish.

Scouts on the western leg kicked the week off in South Dakota and Nebraska, where hot weather and other factors had knocked down crop condition ratings. The toll was apparent, with ear counts in both states down significantly from last year. Southern Rust and other diseases that were widespread last year were largely absent. Average soybean crops in South Dakota and Nebraska gave way to fields with strong potential in Iowa and, particularly, Minnesota.

South Dakota: 149.09 bu. per acre; 945.98 pods in 3'X3'

South Dakota showed significant variability, with corn dented and shutting down earlier than usual. Ear counts were down 5.9% from last year with blank stalks a frequent find alongside pollination issues that were evidence of on-again, off-again stress factors. The corn yield was down 14.4% from 2025, with soybean pod counts down 20%. August rains could allow for soybeans to see a strong finish after hot and dry June and July.

Nebraska: 163.61 bu. per acre; 1,219.62 pods in 3'X3'

Scouts hit the driest part of Nebraska on day 1 and were chased by thunderstorms to begin day 2. Unsurprisingly, dryland fields suffered relative to irrigated, though some pollinated corn samples offered tell-tale signs of heat stress. Nebraska's yield was down nearly 9% from last year's Tour. Blank stalks were prevalent, with the ear count down 5.2% from last year. The pod count was down 9.5% from last year but soybeans should benefit from cooler weather in the forecast and recent rains.

Iowa and Minnesota

Full results for Iowa and Minnesota were released Thursday night. Initial results from western Iowa on Wednesday night failed to impress, which wasn't surprising given hot, dry conditions in the northwest part of the state. Conditions elsewhere, with some of the best crops of the tour seen in north-central Iowa, helped pull up the results. Iowa's average corn yield came in at 193.98 bushels per acre, down 2.2% from last year and 1.4% above the three-year average. Soybean pods in a 3'X3' square averaged 1,362.93, down 1.6% from 2025's Tour and up 5.2% from the three-year average. Minnesota was again a bright spot on the tour. Its corn yield came in at a strong 199.01 bushels per acre, down 1.9% from 202.86 in 2025 but 8.7% above the three-year average. The state produced a pod count of 1,257.80 in a 3'X3' square, up 0.8% from last year.



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#PF Tour26 Crop Comments

"Finished west leg. As we moved east corn yield and pod counts declined. Our route avg #corn 189 bu/ac and #soybeans 1166 in 3ft area. SDS observed in one field and some tip back. Will MN record yields be repeated?"

"Disappointing first stop in District 4 in Iowa. Yield just over 161 bpa. Pollination issues in corn."

"SE corner of Iowa could be close to last year on corn yield but SC Iowa is definitely lower than a year ago. Lots of variability in fields and ear size. Seeing some shallow kernels and milk lines over 50% in some fields. Actual corn moisture avg 49.5% vs 46.6% last year on the same day."

"Not everything is pretty, but irrigation has saved the essentials."

"Five stops in west central Iowa with an average corn yield of 187 bu/acre, down 18% from these same five stops last year. Problems include low ear counts and shorter grain length."

"First stop in Plymouth co IA, district 1. Not seeing the pollination issues here but definitely more tip back than you want to see. Yield check 187.2"
"Corn getting better as we move west through Ohio still very muddy."

"2nd stop in Plymouth co IA. Right next to a hog barn. I believe this is the highest yield check I've ever seen on tour. Two 22 around and a 20. Solid ear count (108) and good grain length (7.66). Yield check 294. Wow."

"Lil tip back in Macoupin County IL."

"Disappointing first stop in District 4 in Iowa. Yield just over 161 bpa. Pollination issues in #corn."

"Drought impacts to #corn seen on most fields and lots of western bean cutworm as we got closer to NE city. Totally opposite of last year's wet weather. Variability is the word of the day to describe"

Trump waives beef tariffs

President Donald Trump on Friday said he would allow up to 300,000 metric tons of ground beef to be imported with no out-of-quota tariff. "We have a commitment that this beef will be sold at 25 percent below current market prices," Trump said in a social media post. Trump didn't provide further details on the deal, which he said would "reduce prices for Americans while giving space for our Great American Beef Herd to grow again." Trump has been sensitive to high beef prices and has previously taken steps to boost beef imports.

Walmart warning

Disappointing earnings from Walmart sent shares of the largest U.S. retailer sliding more than 9% on Thursday, dragging down major stock indexes. The company reported the weakest sales growth in six years, amplifying concerns about the strength of the consumer – a particular concern for the cattle market where signs of resistance to higher beef prices have begun to emerge. A recent Bloomberg report noted beef sales volume fell 0.3% in the 13 weeks ending in mid-July while sales volumes for less expensive proteins rose 2%.

Early winter gas sales

The Trump administration is authorizing an early shift to the sale of wintertime gasoline blends to blunt fuel costs and supply concerns. The Environmental Protection Agency is relaxing normal summertime gasoline requirements, allowing the sale of gasoline blended with 10% ethanol. The administration says the move will boost the domestic gasoline supply and provide Americans more price relief at the pump, with the impact on fuel prices depending on how quickly states respond to the change in federal policy, Bloomberg reported. Starting Sept. 1, the waiver allows the sale of gasoline blended with 10% ethanol that evaporates faster than fuel typically sold during summer.

Black Sea grain exports

Ukraine reported 67 Russian attacks on port facilities in July, while strikes on ports in the Odesa region have removed around a third of Ukraine's grain export capacity, according to S&P Global Energy CERA. Ukraine attacks on Russian export infrastructure and shipping routes have disrupted grain movements through the Black Sea and Azov Sea. CERA on Thursday estimated that 1.7 – 2.1 MMT of Russian grain exports scheduled for July-August were placed at risk, while Russian strikes put approximately 500,000 mt of Ukrainian wheat shipments scheduled for July-August at risk.

Death by a thousand paper cuts

By Lane Akre, Economist

Expectations could not have been much higher for the Eastern Corn Belt going into this year's Crop Tour as record or near-record yields were expected in Iowa through Ohio. A combination of weather challenges tempered those expectations as what has been described on Tour as a thousand paper cuts. While the crops look great from the road with minimal disease and deep green shine, boots on the ground found disappointing ear counts and smaller-than-normal ears. Scouts reported consistently below average yields in corn fields despite reporting disease well below last year, which was the biggest crop the U.S. has ever seen.

A cold hug, wet June, and hot and dry July

USDA noted a record planting pace this spring with ample moisture benefitting the crop, but cooler-than-normal temperatures caused issues with emergence, leading to lower ear counts. A wet June stunted growth before hot temperatures and dryness following the summer solstice led to rapid growth in corn, leading to pollination issues and tip-back across Crop Tour states.

Strong soybean crop

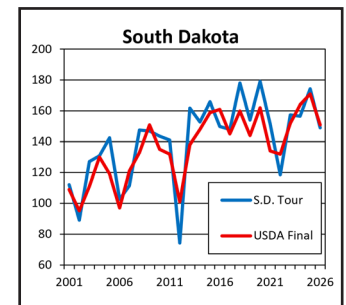
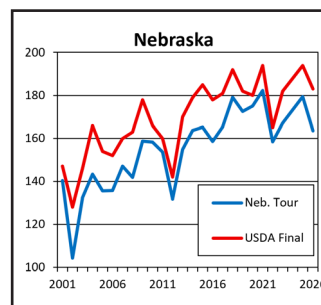
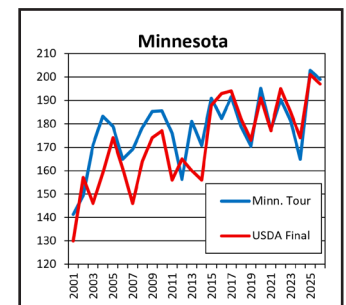
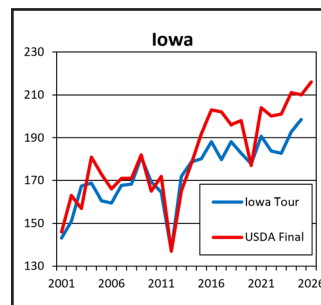
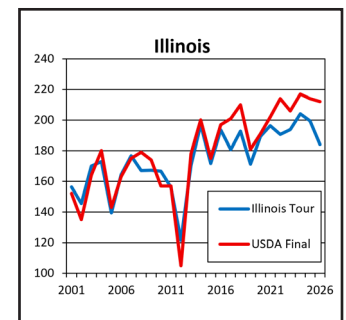
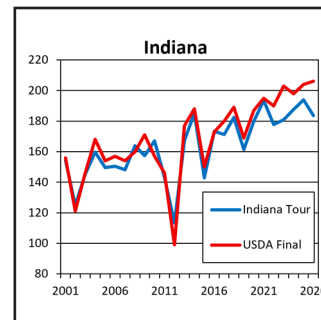
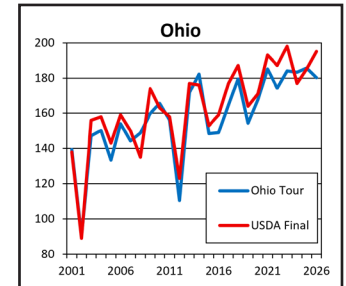
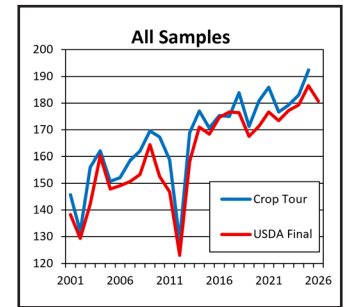
Soybeans were a bright spot across the Midwest, rather unsuspecting given the challenges the corn crop has faced. While pod counts were consistently below last year's historically high or record figures, soil moisture will help carry the crop through the end of the season, even if precipitation slows down. Soybeans can yield records without record pod counts and scouts remarked across the I-states how much potential the soybean crop has, which could help lift the national average yield to record heights.

Not out of the woods yet

Scouts trudged through ankle deep mud on the first two days of Crop Tour, remarking on the immaturity of the soybean crop, especially compared to the past couple years. That tone held true as the week went on, but as the crop got more mature in Iowa and Minnesota, the yield potential became better understood. Still, the eastern Midwest is saturated and has received heavy rainfalls since scouts were on the ground. How the crop will handle that excess moisture is still a concern. While the crop remains healthy, a long enough timeframe before crop maturity leaves room for disease to work into the crops. Both corn and soybeans have a lot of potential to finish well, but will need mother nature to help carry the crops to the finish line.

Historical Difference — Tour Yield Versus USDA Final (avg. since 2001)		
Ohio	ADD	4.8 bu.
Indiana	ADD	4.7 bu.
Illinois	ADD	4.6 bu.
Iowa	ADD	7.4 bu.
Nebraska	ADD	14.1 bu.
Minnesota	SUB	5.5 bu.
S. Dakota	SUB	4.5 bu.
7-State	SUB	5.9 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 2026 yield in the Aug. 1 yield estimate. For all other years, USDA's yield is the final yield.

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