

**HARVEST & FALL AGRONOMY GUIDE**

TURN THIS YEAR'S RESULTS INTO NEXT YEARS DECISIONS.

Harvest is when we finally get the report card but yield alone doesn't tell the whole story. This fall, growers have an opportunity to look beyond the monitor and understand why portions of the field performed differently.

FROM THE FIELD**Check Stalk Integrity to Plan Harvest Schedule**

Crown rots plus the late-August heat are cannibalizing lower internodes. The plant is pulling sugars out of the stalk to finish the ear, and fungi are moving in behind the empty tissue. Fields that still look standing can go down in one wind event.

Walk past the end rows. In five spots, pinch the lowest two internodes or push 20 plants to about 30 degrees. If the stalk collapses or does not spring back upright, it fails. Ten percent failures is the line: that field moves up the harvest list, even if moisture is still a point or two higher than you like.

Watch for premature death, tan or shredded pith when you split a stalk, and hybrids or drowned/compacted acres that fired early. Those are the first to lodge. High yield, high population, or corn on corn ground is next.

THIS MONTH'S TAKEAWAY

Don't wait for black layer on every acre. Scout this week, rank fields by stalk integrity, and start the weak ones first. Grain you pick up at 20% moisture beats plants on the ground after the next storm.

THIS MONTH

- What harvest can tell us about next year
- Why better soil data matters
- How to start building the 2027 seed and fertility plan
- Data Point of the Month

CALL/TEXT TO CONNECT**402-841-2547**

IN THE FIELD

WHAT HARVEST IS TELLING US

YOUR COMBINE IS GIVING YOU CLUES

WHY IT MATTERS

The yield map shows where you won and lost. The next step is understanding why.

WHAT WE'RE SEEING LEADING UP TO HARVEST

Standability

- Crown Rots are starting to set in causing weak stalks in fields with high pressure

Ear Consistency

- Uneven emergence due to variable soil moisture and pythium early, paired with a HOT pollination window is causing inconsistent ears in some fields.

Disease Pressure

- Tar Spot came in early, cooled off and had a big breakout in mid-August. Southern Rust came in late but wasn't as big of an issue as it was the previous two seasons.

Field Variability

- Uneven emergence, compaction, diseases, and soil variability is probably going to show up at some point this season. Take note of those variable or under-producing fields. EarthOptics can help identify root causes.

SOIL INSIGHT

Last fall, we identified fields that had heavy fusarium and gibberellin stalk rot issues. These fields were identified through EarthOptics TruBio test.

With that information we identified a starter program that included a bio-fungicide to help mitigate those issues early. Stalks are holding strong on those fields and yield potential looks high.

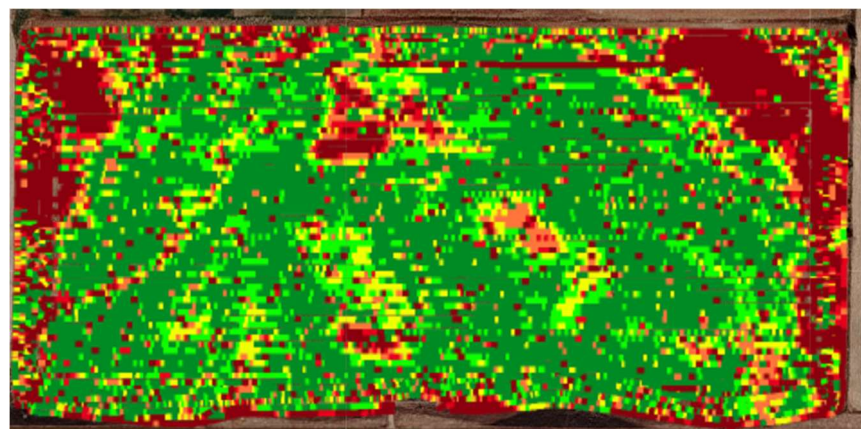
FUSARIUM RISK IN NEBRASKA**64.2%**

This is the percentage of fields with moderate to high risk of Fusarium in Nebraska

Across treated acres where Fusarium risk was identified, we observed an average response of approximately 25 BPA.

QUICK TAKE

The tools to understand yield robbing threats before the season starts are here. Let's have a conversation on how EarthOptics can benefit your farm.

**WHAT GROWERS CAN DO**

- Pinch-Push test on fields to determine harvest order
- Take notes of yield variability throughout fields
- Identify which programs worked this year (seed placement, fungicide, nutrition) as well as programs that maybe didn't yield a positive ROI.

BUILDING YIELD**HYBRID SPOTLIGHT****W7424RIB****BEST FIT**

Well adapted hybrid with tremendous yield potential. Works well over all soil types. Full-Flex ear adapts to a wide range of planting rates.

STRENGTHS

- Girthy, full flex ear with large, deep kernels
- Excellent choice for poorly drained acres
- Strong stalks and low green snap risk

WATCH-OUTS

- Moderate NCLB tolerance, so fungicide if that is present.
- Flexes in Length, so pair with a hybrid that flexes in kernel weight to protect against in-season stresses.

FROM THE PLOT

LOCATION: Hartington, NE

POPULATION: 31,000

PREVIOUS CROP: ALFALFA

RESULT / OBSERVATION: Great emergence, good plant health, and solid ears.

BEYOND THE BAG**Nutrient Tax Deductions**

Did you know that IRS Code Section 180 and other tax codes allow you to deduct the excess fertility from your taxable income?

This deduction ties your excess nutrient levels to the fertilizer prices in the month and year of your acquisition. In northeast Nebraska, we have helped identify significant nutrient deductions on qualifying acres, with values ranging from \$1,400 to \$2,400 per acre. Actual deductions and tax savings vary by operation. Contact your tax professional to determine eligibility.

Land purchased or inherited in the last 20 years typically qualifies.

This can be used on both pasture and row-crop ground.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Nutrient Deductions can allow you to reduce your taxable income, while keeping your hard earned cash in your pocket.

FIELD NOTES

WHAT WE'RE WATCHING THIS FALL

IDENTIFYING ISSUES FROM THE GROUND UP

DATA POINT OF THE MONTH

FUSARIUM CROWN ROT

**WHAT TO LOOK FOR**

Weakened pith, Shredded stalk tissue, dark lesions and external brown streaks on the lower internode

WHEN IT MATTERS

This disease may show symptoms following pollination but may not appear until late in the season.

MANAGEMENT

This disease first infects the plant early. Understanding fields where it is present and applying an in-furrow fungicide or bio-fungicide has been the most effective method.

ONE THING TO DO THIS MONTH

Walk your fields before the combine does. Implement a pinch/push test to determine which fields are infected and a proper harvest order. Thirty minutes of scouting now can help prioritize harvest and prevent lost acres/yield later.

IMPORTANT DATES

- September 15 - \$1/ acre off all Soil Services
- October 15 – Early Order Discount Deadline for Wyffels
- October 15 – First Cash Discount for Wyffels
- October 15 – 11% Cash discount for RSC soybeans

ASK TRUYIELD**Q: Which fields should I soil test first?**

A: Start with the fields that have the most unexplained yield variability, significant fertility investment planned, known pH or nutrient concerns, or acres where you need better information before making a major management decision.

COMING NEXT**HARVEST RESULTS EDITION PT. 1**

What performed, what didn't, and what we're learning from the 2026 crop.

Austin Koch • Koch Seed Services
402-841-2547 • kochseeds.com