

LUNDEEN farms

Volume 1 Issue 1

lundeenfarms.com

Welcome!

We would like to welcome you to our newsletter as you are reading what we hope to be an informative and enjoyable piece. It seems with the amount of information available to read, a quick one page newsletter seems appropriate to keep everyone informed of what is transpiring on the family farm. It also may give an opportunity for yourself to be more informed of ongoing growing conditions as they unfold. We welcome you and hope you enjoy this as much as we enjoy creating it.

Find us on-line

Our newly updated website will house recent and future published works. It will also serve as the place to go for any updates that are not seen in the quarterly newsletter. The website can be found at:

www.lundeenfarms.com

If you are on Facebook, find your way over to our page and Like it page at:

www.facebook.com/lundeenfarms



For some that may be on Twitter, we also do our best to provide more photos and what is happening daily. You can find that page at:

www.twitter.com/lundeenfarms

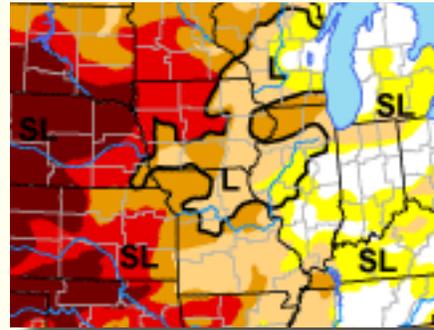


Image showing the latest drought map from the Drought Monitor. Deep red is the worst where white is the best.

2013 Starts off Challenging

The drought of 2012 was not apparent until midway through the growing season. The crop was put into the ground early and the spring was actually a little wetter than normal. Once we were into July, we knew we were going to be facing tough conditions into grain fill. Overall the yields were better than expected, but not ideal. As the calendar turns to 2013, weather conditions are much different. The drought has encompassed much of Illinois and continues to maintain its intensity. What does this all mean to us from a production standpoint? Essentially, unless the weather pattern turns into a more wet pattern this winter into early spring, moisture will be a limiting factor. The crop needs ample moisture for limited stress and high yield potential. Without a full soil profile, timely rainfall will be needed. We can prepare for this in part by doing basic agronomic practices to reduce overall plant stress. Some we have accomplished this fall, as subsoil compaction was reduced through low disturbance tillage. Others are done in the spring to make certain we do not limit plant root growth. 2013 sure does look to be as challenging as 2012.

Fall and Winter Projects

One of the more positive outcomes of warm fall weather was the extended time to get some needed projects accomplished. Tile holes often show up during wet periods, which generally happen while the crop is in the field. It then makes the most sense to wait until after harvest to correct the issue. Broken tiles need repaired and that has been the main focus of winter projects. Typically there are segments that need fixed every year and the great fall weather made that an easy project to complete. Another pressing project around the farm has been to get all the old fence torn out and cleaned up. That is a rather extensive project and usually takes more time and labor than it probably took to put the fence in. The fence that needs torn out is usually broken and fallen over into the crop and serves little to no purpose anymore. Once the winter sets in, we will have to turn our attention to inside jobs.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



Nitrogen Applications

Nitrogen is the most critical nutrient to corn development and growth. It is the building block of essential amino acids in the plant and a supply of it throughout the growing season means higher yield potential. We made a significant investment last fall in equipment that allows us to apply nitrogen in season. This is important because nitrogen is complex and takes on forms that can be lost in periods of excessive rainfall and warm temperatures. Environmentally it makes sense to apply nitrogen as the crop needs it. We have moved a significant percentage of our overall nitrogen needs to spring and in season application to ensure we are not only being environmentally conscious but also maximizing yield potential. We are still able to apply fall nitrogen which is beneficial

because it allows to spread our risk out into different sources and application timings. What is most important to us is flexibility in timing and knowing that we can apply nitrogen any time during the growing season. Making certain that the corn plant has a supply of nitrogen throughout the growing season means that there is a better chance of producing higher yields.

Feedback is Requested

We would be excited to hear any feedback you have on our newsletter or any of our operations on your land. Feel free to share this newsletter and our contact information with anyone you see fit as we are always looking to develop new relationships.

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