

USGC Releases Third Installment Of 2016 Corn Production Video Series, Focused On Growing Season

The second of third U.S. Grains Council (USGC) videos chronicling the 2016 U.S. corn growing season is now available online, highlighting conditions on farms in Arkansas, Missouri, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

The segment is available online at <http://tinyurl.com/CornGrow2016>.

In early July, pollination wrapped up in the U.S. Corn Belt, at which time most farmers were able to get a first look at their crop's yield potential.

"This is my first chance to be able to come out into my corn field to look at the kernels on the ear and get an estimate of what the yield is going to be like this fall," said Missouri farmer Gary Porter. "While nothing is locked in for sure, it gives me an idea of the potential yield."

Most of the U.S. Corn Belt experienced good growing weather this spring and summer, which has led to good pollination of the crop.

"It looks beautiful," said Wisconsin farmer Casey Kelleher. "The corn has tasseled and it's pretty uniform and even. We just need some moisture."

Besides waiting on timely rains, most farmers are watching their plants for insect and disease pressures.

"The main thing we try to do is keep the stalk healthy," said Arkansas farmer Tommy Young. "We try to make sure all the leaves remain healthy and we want that stalk to remain strong and green all through harvest."

Further north, South Dakota farmer Ryan Wagner is also keeping a close eye on his plants to ensure his harvest is bountiful and high-quality.

"In the corn, I haven't seen a whole lot for the insect pressure that can sometimes occur," Wagner said. "But it's still fairly early in the growing season, and those things can come on late."


Despite Wagner's caution, Porter remains optimistic.


"I'm thinking there's going to be a heck of a yield this year," Porter said.


The next installment of this video series, available in late fall, will revisit these farmers to show the final yields of their corn crops. ■

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