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**PRICE Futures Group**  
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# 2019 Central Illinois Crop Tour

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**Our 2019 Crop Tour began SW of Chicago in Kendall County. Driving West on IL 52 we found large PP acres north of Minooka. More blank fields in appeared in Livingston, Woodford & Iroquois Counties.**





**The Field portion of our 2019 Crop Tour kicked off SW of Chicago in Grundy County. Our first field was 4 miles south of Mazon on IL 47.**



**This year's crew of Jack Scoville & Mark Fei of Price Group are ready to make their first ear, row and kernel counts on 1/1000 of an acre.**





**Sample #1**

**This year's 1<sup>st</sup> field had milk stage ears that had the longest kernel length of the tour, average rows around and 4<sup>th</sup> highest ear numbers resulting in Estimated Yield – 168.1 bu.**



**This soybean field across the road in Grundy County had good height. However, it wasn't canopied, and it was only in its flowering stage.**





**After turning west on IL 116 in Livingston County, lower leaf firing surfaced (combo of dryness and nitrogen loss from spring rains). This condition surfaced along the whole tour this year.**



**Our first field check in Livingston County was 5 miles east of Pontiac on IL 116 to see possible impact of firing on corn's yield. We looked at the corn fields on both sides of this lane.**





**What we found was just nothing to count in either field as the 2019's late plantings has delayed corn ear development in this area.**



**Driving thru Pontiac, IL their Pride is revealed in the Public Murals – Worth a Visit.**





**We continued west of Pontiac on IL 116 in Livingston County seeing numerous barren fields that are likely going to be prevent planting area. We counted 21 fields across the county on IL 116..**



**We made our next field stop 9 miles west of Pontiac for Livingston County on IL 116. Moisture stress has rolled up these plant leaves because of dryness.**





**Sample #2**

**A disappointing yield occurred in this just pollinating field with blistering ears. A drop to just 16 ears count (2<sup>nd</sup> lowest) limited output despite 3<sup>rd</sup> highest kernel length resulting in -**

**Estimated Yield – 107.9 bu.**



**We continued traveling west on IL 116 into Woodford County. We turn south on IL 117 to find this medium green colored and reduced height field near Roanoke.**





**However, two important things were found in this field. Plant development had only clear silks and the field was showing significant lower leaf firing.**



**Sample #3**

**Our Woodford County field had the trip's worst yield & lowest since 2012. This early pollinating crop made it hard to find viable ears (8) for our population count. Despite above average rows & kernel length, a very poor yield was calculated.**

**Estimated Yield – 56.4 bu.**





**After a lunch break and a trip on I-74 around Bloomington, we took the Downs exit looking for a more advanced field in Central McLean.**



**Since our 1st stop, various heights & row widths were seen. However, checking under the leaves, only minimal pods & some flowers appeared. This likely May planted field had more pods than flowers.**





**Sample #4**

**Our McLean County stop 1 Mi. South of I-74 on CR 29 saw our yields jump substantially. This Dough/Early Dent field had a 33,500 ear count per acre. Its row count was average at 16.3, but kernel length was only 32.2, the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest. Overall, the second highest yield on the trip.**

**Estimated Yield – 206.3 bu.**



**Continuing south on CR 29 and CR16 into DeWitt County, our next stop was 6 east of Wapella & just north of County Road 10.**





**Soybeans had stronger height in McLean & Dewitt Counties, but most 30 rows weren't fully canopied on any portion of the trip.**



**Sample #5**

**This late Milk/Dough corn had the highest ear count of 35,000/acre & row count of 17.3. Its ear length of just 30.3 kernels (tied for lowest) held the yield back. However, Dewitt County produce the highest corn yield of the trip.**

**Estimated Yield – 217.4 bu.**





**Traveling east and then NE on IL 54 back into McLean County the corn fields were tall and green. June plantings aren't visible from road.**



**Sample #6**

**Our SE McLean stop 1 mile north of Bellflower on IL 54 was a June seeding. Our ear count fell back to just 20,000/acre & kernel length remained short at 30.3 (tied for lowest). A strong row count of 17.3 couldn't compensate.**

**Estimated Yield – 124.2 bu.**





**Surprisingly, this soybean field in across the road had numerous plants & pods on its stem. However, August/September rains & temperatures will determine the US and IL crops again this year.**



**This 1904 J.I. Case Steam Engine Tractor in Gibson City's Park powered many threshing machines, but it didn't work in many fields.**





**Proceeding north into Ford County on IL 54, more fields with lower leaf firing resurfaced along the road. Dryness and poor root development has plagued IL corn this year.**



**Firing (lower leaf yellowing) is a sign of stress for corn. The plant is dropping leaves to compensate for reduce water or nutrients from its root system. It impacts kernel weight.**





**Sample #7**

**This late planted blister/early milk field 2 miles south of Melvin on IL 54 in Ford County needs a rain. Surprisingly, it's strong ear length of 37.2 kernels couldn't compensate for a low row (16.0) and ear count of 17,000 per acre.**

**Estimated Yield – 118.9 bu.**



**Our Final stop of our C. IL crop tour is always Iroquois County south of Chicago. With our sunlight fading, we still had to pass this field because of minimal silk development from its late planting.**





**We went across the highway to check two other fields. Unfortunately, we found clear silks and limited crop development in both fields, too. The photo tries to show 8 stalks with no ears. We moved 1 mile north.**



**On our 4<sup>th</sup> attempt for a corn check 2 mile north of US 45 and 52 junction, this unusual double ear field appeared. In switching to an earlier hybrid, this seed corn freak escaped and got planted.**





**The modern US seed corn is bred to have one ear of moderate size so it can be planted at 33-37,000 per acre to maximize yield potential. Most 2<sup>nd</sup> ears produce modest or no output and hurt total yield.**



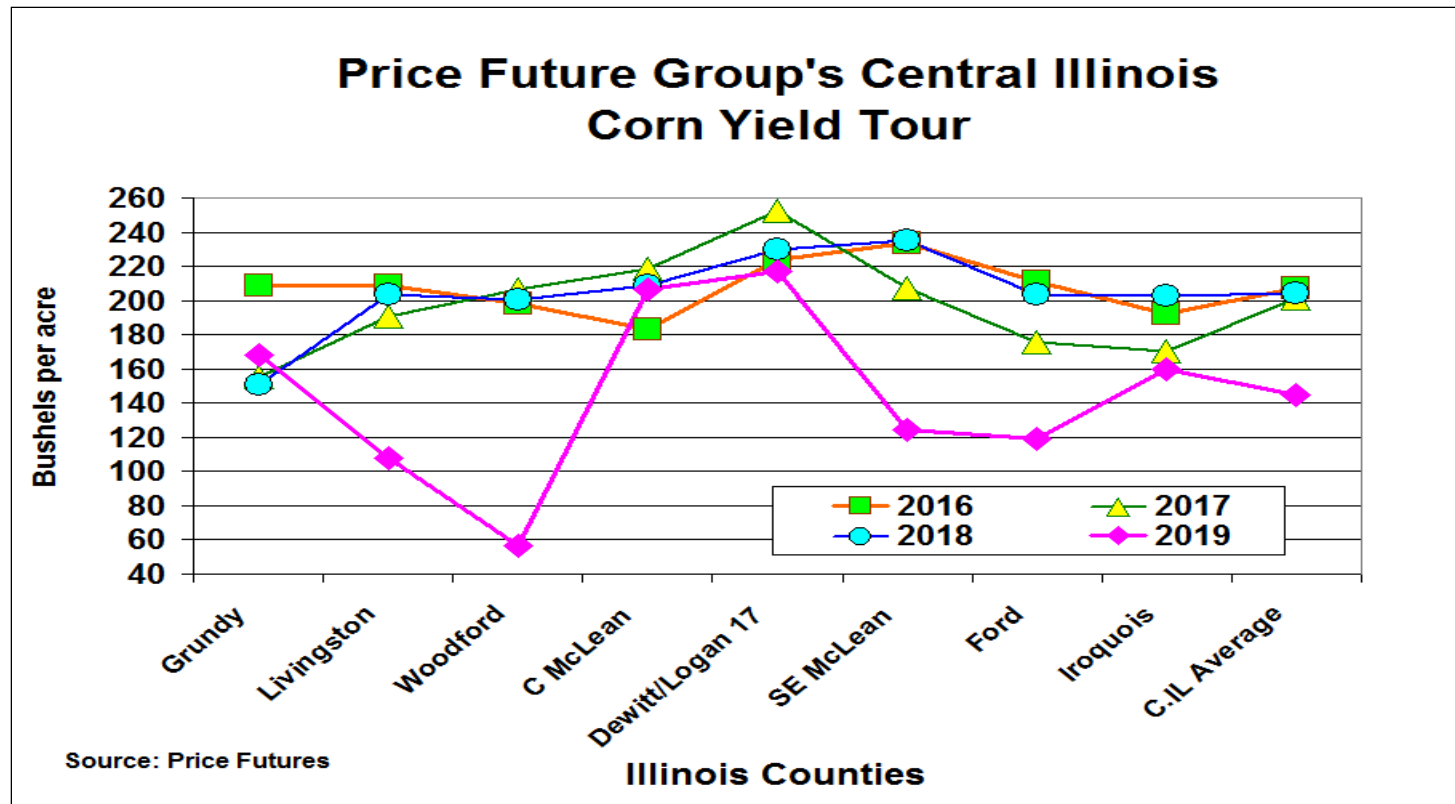
**Sample #8**

**This N. Iroquois County field near Clifton on US 45 & 52 had average kernel length of 34.5, but a 14.7 average row count (lowest of trip). Its 27,000 ear population count boasted its yield count, but its blister ears make weather a big factor yet..**

**Estimated Yield – 159.6 bu.**



# CENTRAL ILLINOIS CORN TOUR



**This year's Central Illinois crop tour was a one day trip making numerous stops across the major counties that surround Bloomington, IL. 2019's corn yield potential appears very disappointing at 144.9 bu. Late maturity seems to be holding it back. Rainfall & an extended fall could jump yields dramatically.**

## Price Futures 2016-2019 Illinois Corn Yield Results vs USDA Yields

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Price Futures Average Tour Corn Yield	-	-	-	-
Illinois August Corn Yield	207.5	201.2	204.3	144.8
Illinois Final Corn Yield	200.0	188.0	207.0	181.0
Price Futures US Sept Corn Yield Estimate	197.0	201.0	210.0	?

Bushels per acre

**Our tour counties relationship to Illinois' state yield suggests a decline in corn's final level. However, the lateness of the crop producing no solid field counts in four counties means more info is needed to make either a state or US corn yield estimate at this time.**





**As we were recapping another C. IL crop tour in our drive back to Chicago, the 2019's tour left us with many unanswered issues vs solid details to project Illinois's corn and soybean crop output. This year's late planting means the next 6-8 weeks of weather (heat, dryness & timing of a fall freeze) will impact crop sizes. Yields could go either way in the next month. September's yields will be next step in realize 2019's US crop sizes. Stay Tuned!!!**

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