



The  
**PRICE Futures Group**

Trading. Investments. Advice.

# CENTRAL ILLINOIS CORN TOUR

Conducted By:

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On a cool & stormy morning, our first field of the 2017 Price Futures Group Crop Tour SW of Chicago held surprises.



Entering our first field to make our ear, row and kernel counts on 1/1000 of acre.



Sample #1

9 Miles South of Mazon in Grundy County on IL Hwy 47.  
This Milk Stage field was quite a surprise with low row count of 14.9, and kernel length  
& ear numbers the lowest of the tour.

**Estimated Yield – 146.7 bu.**



Pride in Pontiac showed with the Public Murals –  
Worth a Visit.



After turning west on IL 116 in Livingston County we drove past Pontiac and entered this farm lane. Prospects looked good.



## Sample #2

This Milk stage corn had a strong ear count of 33 and a slight kernel length, but this field's strong tip-back because of likely dryness limited its yield.

**Estimated Yield – 179.8 bu.**



At the end of the lane when we were turning around, this 5-7 acre plot of sunflowers were found many miles from Kansas or ND.





In our 3<sup>rd</sup> Field in Central Woodford County Jack Scoville was impressed by ear size and strong green color of the leaves.



Sample #3

2 Miles NE of Roanoke in Woodford County on IL 116/117. Despite modest rows, a solid ear count and a strong 37.5 kernel length pushed this field's yield.

**Estimated Yield – 195.1 bu.**



After a short-cut that turned into an adventure in N. Tazewell County near the IL River, we came upon this van on a gravel road. They were looking for this Oak Tree for a Peoria TV commercial, not a corn field like us.



Sample #4

Despite the hilly terrain along our short-cut to I-155 in N. Tazewell County, this Milk Stage field had a respectable yield because of ear length, but the rows and 27,500 ear count per acre limited its output. Earlier dryness likely a factor.

**Estimated Yield – 175.8 bu.**



After our N. Tazewell adventure we made stop in S. Tazewell County to recheck this county's prospects south of Peoria. Beetles chewing off this field's corn silks was red flag.



Sample #5

What a difference inside! This field's strong ear population of 33,000 and row counts carried the day on the only dented field of the tour. A timely rain 2-3 weeks early than fields on eastward made big difference.

**Estimated Yield – 235.5 bu.**



Because of the missing silks, Marta Santos, a fellow crop scout, decided to check the neighboring soybean field to check for Japanese beetle damage on the leaves.



Leaf damage was modest, but given the maturity of the neighboring corn field, the modest level of flowering and the lack of sizable pods on the plants was surprising and a bit disappointing. Potential for a good crop exists.





Jack Scoville and Jerry Gidel observe the strong yield prospects in our next yield check in Logan County 2 miles east of I-155 along US 136.

## Sample #6



This North Logan County field turned out to have the crop tour's best yield. This early Dough stage corn had the strongest row count of 18 and tied for best ear count of 33,000. The field's variable ear length curtailed our measure output slightly.

**Estimated Yield – 238.6 bu.**

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Our 7th Field 3 miles west of McLean on US 136 SW McLean County continued the excellent stands and dark green color.

## Sample #7



Our western McLean County stop had our highest average ear length of 38.8 kernels, but this field's row counts was modest 15.7 and its 29,000 ear per acre population slipped its yield vs the previous two stops.

**Estimated Yield – 195.4 bu.**



Gidel took an early peek at our eastern McLean County stop just past the crossroad of IL 150 and US 136 Highways.

## Sample #8



Our eastern McLean county field stop had a row count similar to our top Logan county field (18), and a solid 31,000 ear population per acre, but kernel length (tip-back) reduced the top end (dryness).

**Estimated Yield – 206.8 bu.**



Proceeding north into Ford County, we traveled east and north of Gibson City on IL 9 and then 115 to make our next field check as we return to Chicago.

## Sample #9



This Milk stage field located 5 miles north of IL 9 on IL 115 in Ford County had a late start it seems. However, the corn's small row count (14.7) and ear length (32.2 kernels) because of ongoing dryness has reduced its potential despite a 31,500 ears per acre.

**Estimated Yield – 166.0 bu.**





Our light green color of our final stop in Iroquois County was an indicator of the impact of this heavy moisture that delayed planting in this area & washed nutrients from the soil during heavy July rains.

## Sample #10



Our stop 5 Mile North of Crescent City on IL 49 in Iroquois County seems to reflect this year's heavy moisture in NE IL. Despite a solid ear count of 31,500, disappointing ear length (31.3 kernels) and the lowest average row count of 14.7 suggests saturated soils have limited nutrients reaching the ears.

**Estimated Yield – 160.8 bu.**



Last year's soybean crop looked like a green carpet along most roads in Central Illinois with excellent weed control.



We found some fields that looked similar to 2016, but plant height was shorter and the proportion that had canopied was down sharply from last year .



The quality of this year's weed control and the level of volunteer corn is impacting 20-25% of fields.



This eastern Illinois field reflects the heavy flooding rains that soybeans don't like. Overall, the number of Central Illinois soybean fields are up sharply, but this year's potential doesn't look as good as previous years.

2017's Central Illinois Crop tour average is:

190 Bushels vs. last year's 196 and  
2014's 211 bu. top yield.

Illinois' August corn yield will likely be **178-184** bu.

Our U.S. August Corn Yield is 166.0 bu.

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