

Weather a little weird this year.

Farmers in Dawson County and elsewhere know about uncertainty.

That's the name of the game.

Still, they can't help but wish away killer freezes when seed is planted in the spring and pray for the right amount of rain—minus hail and high winds—through the long days of summer.

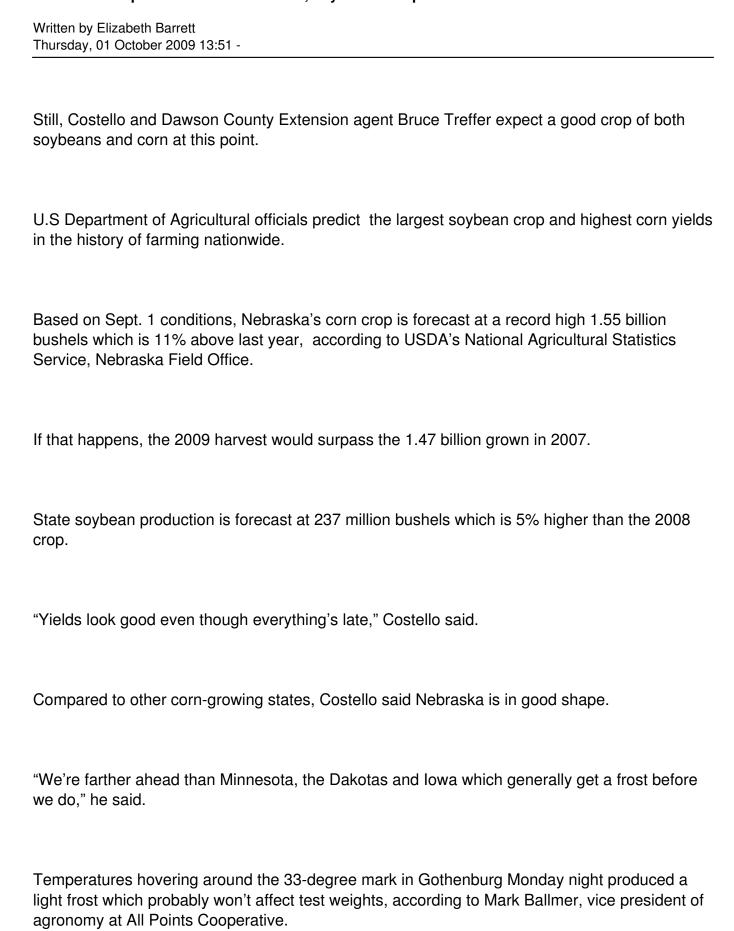
With days of Indian summer at a minimum so far this September, they wait for soybeans and corn to mature.

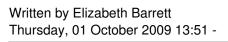
Because of ample rainfall and cooler-than-usual temperatures, farmers planted later in the spring.

Throughout the summer and early fall, there have been fewer optimum growing days for both corn and soybeans.

In fact, combines have just started to roll through soybean rows in Dawson County and corn harvest is expected to begin in late October.

All Points Cooperative vice president of grain Steve Costello said soybean harvest is about 1 1/2 weeks later than usual.





That's because of the maturity of both soybeans and corn at this point.



Hail in the county last summer damaged some crops but around Gothenburg, ag officials said it was fairly minimal.

When corn harvest starts, Treffer said some farmers have talked about drying corn themselves or paying an elevator to do it.

"Energy costs are more reasonable this year," Treffer said.

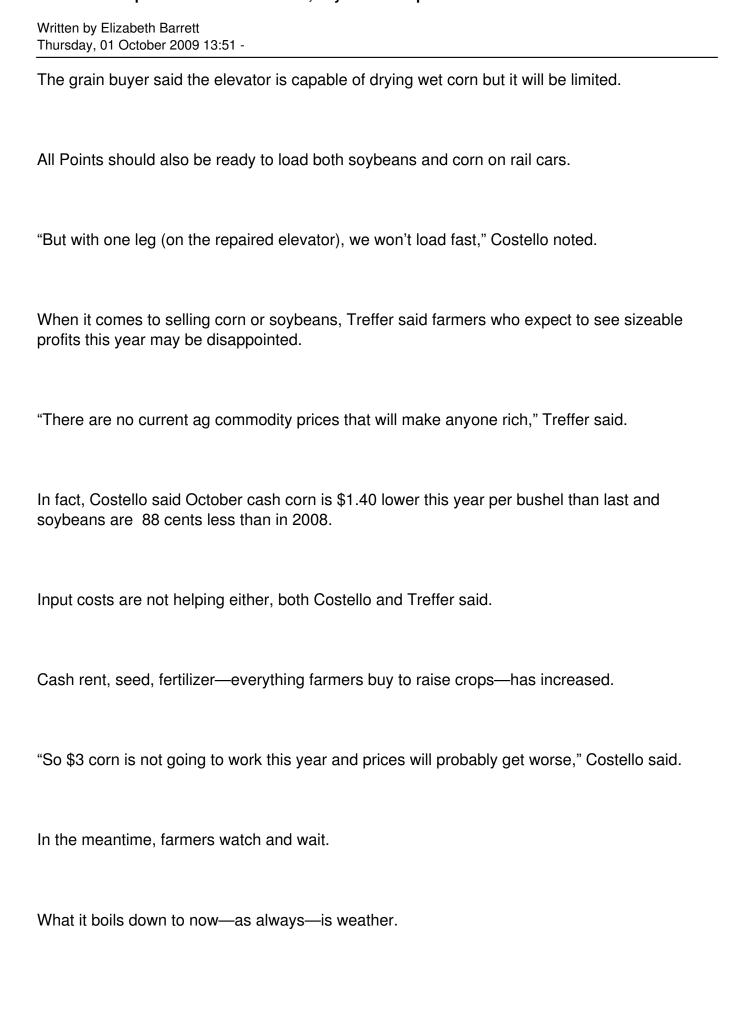
Costello said they expect to fire up the dryer at All Points like they did last year.

"I've never seen two drying seasons like we've had back to back," he said about the 2008 and 2009 crops. "It looks like we'll be drying a lot of corn if we don't get some 80-degree days."

All Points was drying corn during the early morning hours of Nov. 20, 2008, when grain dust exploded and blew out the top of the main elevator.

Crews are still working to restore drying, storing and train-loading capacity at the elevator.

"It's good timing with a late harvest but it's still not enough," Costello said.



Written by Elizabeth Barrett Thursday, 01 October 2009 13:51 -

"Last year, harvest lasted forever," Treffer said, referring to rain that kept farmers out of their fields. "It may be perfect weather this year."

Brock and his dad Britt Anderson had pretty good weather Monday when they started harvesting 600 acres of dryland, short-season corn.

Brock said they plant the 91-day corn so they can harvest it and still sow a wheat crop.

He estimated that picking short-season corn—sold to All Points for cattle feed—was about a week behind because they couldn't get into wet fields with their equipment.

"We hope to get our beans out in a week when they're dried down," Brock said, noting that harvest of irrigated corn will hopefully begin in two to three weeks.

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