

Grain buyer says soybean yields excellent

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
Friday, 18 October 2013 13:33 -



Corn harvest too early to tell.

On Monday, thunderstorms rumbled and rain poured across Gothenburg and Dawson County.

Last Friday, farmers had to brave blustery winds that gusted across fields.

Despite weather conditions and harvest about a week behind usual, this year's harvest looks good so far.

All Points Cooperative grain buyer Steve Costello said soybeans are the best he's ever seen.

Grain producer Doug Peckham agreed and described his crop as dense and weighing in the upper 50-pound range compared to the crop standard of 60 pounds a bushel which is uncommon to reach.

"Usually beans are in the mid 50 range," Peckham said.

So far, he said he's picked a load of yellow corn and has started harvesting his popcorn crop.

Monday's downpours could keep farmers from driving combines in soggy fields, Peckham said, noting that a dry day with low humidity are ideal harvest conditions for soybeans.

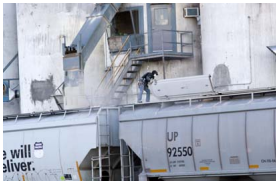
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He said soybean planting was about a week late this year.

As far as growing conditions, Peckham said beans mature to the length of day while corn develops according to heat units or temperatures that are high enough over a period of time to make corn grow, Peckham said.

Because large amounts of corn haven't been brought to the elevator yet, Costello said he doesn't know about quality but expects it to be good.



Prices per bushel for both corn and soybeans are about \$3 dollars less than last year, Peckham said.

"Last year was a bonanza year with good prices and yields," he said. "This year, I hope yields are high to maintain some profit."

As a result of lower prices, he said he'll be more careful with expenditures.

Barring weather, that Peckham described as the "cat in the bag," yields look favorable, he said.

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