2021 Soybean Crop Is Quickly Coming In

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Al Backstrom down at the Rothsay receiving station for Maple River Grain reported a surge in soybean deliveries the last 10 days of September. "Our farmers went through the beans quite quickly when they started. The weather was perfect for combining. We were 70% to 80% done by the end of September and expect to finish beans any day now," said Backstrom.

"The numbers have been just plain crazy. We have reports of 40-plus bushel to the acre soybeans. We have other reports of beans that won't go 10 bushels to the acre. Some of those 10 to 40 bushel reports are from the same field.

"Most of our farmers are happy to see the yield we have been getting considering the dry, hot summer conditions. The quality has been excellent with test weights in the 56-58-pound range. The basis for beans is 60-pounds but we seldom see that around here. More likely high 50s in a good year. All things considered, most farmers are happy with this year's crop," Backstrom concluded.

Curt Bjertness is the general manager of CW Coop in Wolverton and Comstock. He estimates his farmers are about 75% done with the soybean harvest.

"Our yields have been all over the boards," Bjertness said. "We have a few fields running over 40 bushel to the acre beans We have other fields that can't make single digits per acre for yields. And we've got everything in between. If you were to pick an average field in our trade area, it would probably produce yields in the low to mid-30 bushel range.

"But we have some longer maturity beans out there yet that are now maturing. They could have been helped by the recent rains while the early maturing beans we're taking in now got no benefit from the rain. Quality has been excellent, good test weight, uniform beans. They're dry. Just combine them and bin 'em," Bjertness concluded.

"Nobody is saying much of anything about yield so I'm guessing there's no big crop out there," said Dave Dufault, general manager of the Maple River Grain terminal in Dilworth. That station serves farmers in Moorhead, Dilworth, Sabin and farmers north as far as Georgetown with elevators at both Dilworth and Sabin.

"While the yields might not be there, quality is excellent," Dufault said. "The beans are dry, running about 13% moisture with some coming in really dry at 10%. Even the dry beans are not shattering during combining. Test weights have been excellent, in the very high 50-pound range.

"We're probably looking at 75% of our crop already harvested with just some late maturing soybeans left to come in. It has been an excellent harvest," Dufault concluded.

The soybean harvest always goes quickly. This year the weather was very cooperative with few down days. There's just not a lot of straw and stubble to deal with in the soybean fields. There is really no stubble at all this year as farmers were running their headers as close to the ground as possible to pick up beans on the short stalks. With the dry fields, it's a barren landscape after the combines got done with their job.

The only real problem for some farmers this year has been handling the crop in the combine. The pods are dry and shell out the beans nicely. However, there are green stalks in some parts of the field that want to tangle up in the combine. That has meant some spotted harvests on a few fields, especially on rolling ground. A lot of the field has been combined but low, higher moisture spots are still green and will be left for another week or two before harvest.

The other fall harvests have also been accelerated due to the summer dry conditions. We got some rains starting in late August but that was after a year with no significant rainfall, from September of 2020 to August of 2021. The only rains received in that time frame were small showers producing moisture in regional pockets while a mile away they were looking at rainbows and dust.

In addition to soybeans, the sugarbeet campaign began with the turning of the calendar pages to October. The first of October is always a target date for the full beet campaign to get underway for both Crystal and MinnDak growers. That October 1 start is always determined by the weather. If it is too hot or too

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

With ideal combining conditions and a growing season shortened by a lot of heat, many crop harvests are overlapping this year. While soybeans have been the main focus lately, in the photo above a field of sunflowers is being combined. The early harvest of sunflowers will take away the opportunity for the blackbirds to make a raid on the ripe heads. Even if there is some drying cost from taking the flowers early this year, it will be made up by a sunflower crop that is commanding $30 at the crushing plants.

October Is National Fire Prevention Month

October is Fire Prevention Month, noted nationally. It's an opportunity to do an inventory on our homes to check for any issues that could become fire sources. It's the time of the year when we should be checking smoke alarms and changing batteries in them.

October is a time when we should be having a family meeting and discussing an exit strategy from our home in case of a fire. If the real event should occur, everyone in the household should know what to do.

Schools and public facilities will be conducting fire drills during the month to acquaint everyone with what to do in case of a fire. There may even be a field trip by one of the elementary school classes to tour the Fire Hall.

The Rothsay community is protected by a dedicated staff of 22 volunteer firemen who respond to fires and calls for rescue or assistance. The fire department also supplies mutual aid backup services to other departments around the region in case there is a serious fire to fight. Other area departments also have a mutual aid agreement with the Rothsay Fire Department and would respond in case of a serious fire in this community.

The local volunteers devote a great deal of their lives to safeguarding the community. There are regular monthly meetings as well as scheduled practice sessions. There are mandatory and voluntary training classes that firemen attend.

While there are not a lot of fires annually in a small community, every single one of them comes at an inconvenient time. Volunteer firemen drop whatever they are doing when an alarm comes in and respond to the call. This means that not only is the community served by the volunteer fireman, but also by a very understanding spouse and employer.

Emergency calls have absolutely no respect for clocks or schedules. There's nothing that gets a day started like a fire call at 3:00 in the morning. Every fire call has two things in common, you don't know how bad it is until you get there and you won't be going home until it's completely out. It doesn't matter how long that takes.

And fires are not the only service provided by the local department. There are also numerous calls each year to the Interstate where a vehicle accident has occured and there may well be injuries. There are also calls to local emergencies in the home or a farm accident.

For a small community, the Rothsay Fire Department is quite well equipped with fire trucks, advance quick response units and grass fire fighting equipment. Some of the updated equipment has come in the form of grants, some comes from local tax participation through the fire district and some money is raised by the firemen themselves.

Each fireman is fully equipped with a full set of "turnout gear". That gear includes all fire retardant clothing which includes a fire jacket, bunker pants, steel reinforced rubber boots, a hard-hat helmet and hood. The gear is way too heavy and hot at a summer fire and freezing cold when water leaks in while fighting a winter fire.

The Rothsay Fire Department is made up of 22 men who have devoted a part of their lives to protecting and serving the community of Rothsay. Those men provide the department with 215 years of cumulative experience in fire fighting. That range of experience varies from 36 years from the most senior member of the department down to a couple of raw rookie recruits who joined the department on February 1 of this year.

The Fire Chief for the Rothsay Fire and Rescue Department is Jordan Barry. He has been with the department for seven years, joining in April of 2014. The Assistant Fire Chief is Patrick "P.T." Jensen. He is a veteran with 25 years on the local fire department and has also served as chief since joining the local fire fighting force in February of 1996.

A complete roster of the fire department and their years of service accompanies this story.

Rothsay Fire Rescue Roster

NAME	START DATE	FULL YEARS OF SERVICE
Jordan Barry-Fire Chief	4/19/14	7
Patrick (PT) Jensen-Asst. Chief	2/17/96	25
Joseph Hanneman-	9/15/03	18
Nate Johnson-	10/21/08	12
Cale Brandt-	2/20/01	20
Shawn Christ	4/17/18	3
Nickolis Curtis	3/7/19	2
Brady Johnson	10/29/19	1
Scott Kern	4/17/18	3
Eric Larson	11/22/03	17
Brian Marquardt	2/6/07	14
Donnie Marquardt	5/3/10	11
Gene Nord	2/27/85	36
Travis Olson	4/17/18	3
Daryl Schleeter	3/6/17	4
Kacey Watterud	1/23/12	9
Kevin Watterud	2/20/99	22
Wes Zilmer	4/19/14	7
Jacob Barry	2/1/21	
Joel Rodriguez	2/1/21	
Matt Larson	10/29/19	1
Kayla Lehto	9/20/21	

Members of the Rothsay Fire Department that were available gathered for a group photo following a recent practice. Kneeling in the front row we have Daryl Schleeter, Eric Larson, Nick Curtis, Matt Larson and Gene Nord. Standing in the back row are Cale Brandt, Nate Johnson, Shawn Christ, Wes Zilmer, Brady Johnson, Joe Hanneman, Jordan Barry, Jacob Barry and Kevin Watterud.

Missing from the group photo on this evening and not pictured were P.T. Jansen, Joel Rodriquez, Travis Olson, Kacey Watterud, Donny Marquardt, Brian Marquardt, Scott Kern and Kayla Lehto.

The Rothsay Fire Department recently conducted a fire practice devoted entirely to use of the "Jaws of Life". This is a unique tool capable of using its jaws to cut through heavy metal. Or, when the hydraulically operated tool is used in reverse, it can force apart layers of steel.

The tool is particularly effective in extricating victims from an automobile crash. In many cases the passenger or driver of the vehicle is pinned in the car and must be removed by cutting or moving parts of the wreckage.

Without the "Jaws of Life" it can be a real task to physically pry and bend already bent steel and get a victim safely out of the vehicle. It is dangerous for firemen and the victim. The "Jaws" don't make it easy but are much more effective than the brute strength that would be required otherwise.

The "Jaws" practice session was conducted on Thursday, September 16 and extended well out into the evening. The vehicles used in the practice were provided by Rick Reep, owner of Rick's Tire and Towing in Barnesville and Jacob Barry. Reep owns storage units in Lawndale and also stores salvage vehicles there for short periods of time.