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Introduction: Corn following corn

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Introduction: Corn following corn

Abstract

Across the Midwest, we expect to see an increase in acreage planted to corn over previous years because of the demand for grain from several markets, including livestock and ethanol. In addition to these market-driven factors is the uncertainty surrounding soybean production, including possible increased management costs for disease protection. The effectiveness of a corn-soybean rotation in controlling corn rootworm also has been reduced, lessening the incentive to rotate crops.

Keywords

Agronomy

Disciplines

Agricultural Science | Agriculture | Agronomy and Crop Sciences

Editor's note: You may have noticed that you are receiving your ICM newsletter one month later than usual this year. The reason for this is because this issue is the largest newsletter we have ever produced. We received more than 20 articles for this special issue covering the topic of corn following corn. Many thanks to the authors for working with us to make this happen on such short notice. We hope you enjoy reading this first issue of the ICM newsletter and find the information invaluable as you prepare for the 2007 season.

—Keven Arrowsmith, Managing Editor
Marlin E. Rice, Executive Editor



Crop Production

Introduction: Corn following corn

by Lori Abendroth and Roger Elmore, Department of Agronomy

Across the Midwest, we expect to see an increase in acreage planted to corn over previous years because of the demand for grain from several markets, including livestock and ethanol. In addition to these market-driven factors is the uncertainty surrounding soybean production, including possible increased management costs for disease protection. The effectiveness of a corn-soybean rotation in controlling corn rootworm also has been reduced, lessening the incentive to rotate crops.



Although corn yields continue to increase $1\frac{3}{4}$ bushels per acre per year nationwide (see Figure 1), this increase will not come close to meeting the future demands for grain. The only way to meet the demand is to increase acreage devoted to corn production. The increase in corn acres will almost entirely come from a reduction in soybean acreage. In Iowa, producers have generally planted a corn-soybean rotation. Corn and soybean acres started to trend differently in 2001 (see Figure 2), as the gap between them began widening again in favor of corn. In 2006, the ratio of corn to soybean was 55:45, with nearly 13 million acres of corn.

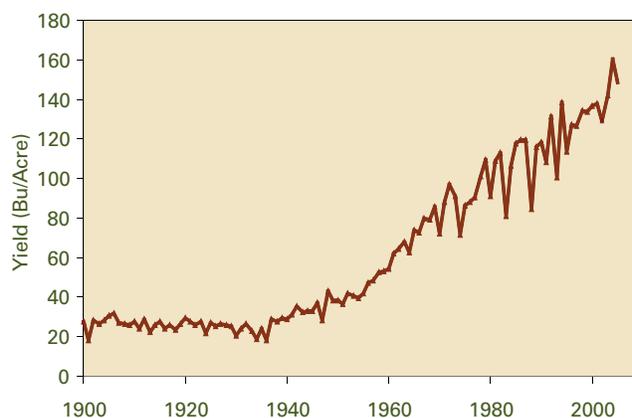


Figure 1. United States corn grain yields (1900–2005).
(National Agricultural Statistics Service [NASS])

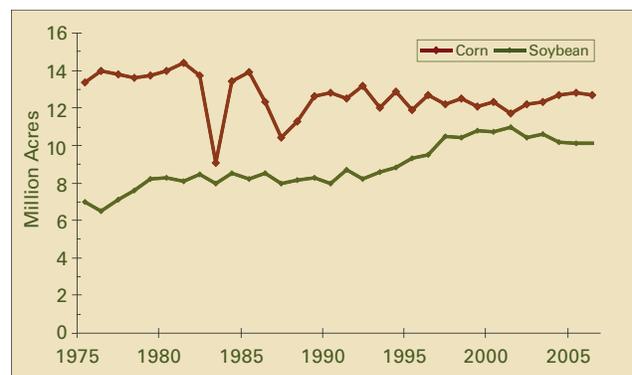


Figure 2. Corn and soybean acres for Iowa (1975–2006).
(National Agricultural Statistics Service [NASS])

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