2-12-2007

Introduction: Corn following corn

Lori Abendroth
Iowa State University, labend@iastate.edu

Roger W. Elmore
Iowa State University, relmore@iastate.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cropnews

Part of the Agricultural Science Commons, Agriculture Commons, and the Agronomy and Crop Sciences Commons

Recommended Citation
http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cropnews/1149

The Iowa State University Digital Repository provides access to Integrated Crop Management News for historical purposes only. Users are hereby notified that the content may be inaccurate, out of date, incomplete and/or may not meet the needs and requirements of the user. Users should make their own assessment of the information and whether it is suitable for their intended purpose. For current information on integrated crop management from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, please visit https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/. 
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

This article is available at Iowa State University Digital Repository: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cropnews/1149
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 ¼ 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.

Lori Abendroth is an agronomy specialist with research and extension responsibilities in corn production.
Roger Elmore is professor of agronomy with research and extension responsibilities in corn production.