

2017  
July

# a view from the WINDMILL



## REPLANT 2017

The spring of 2017 across Western Indiana has been especially wet, accompanied by slightly below normal temperatures. The timing of this weather has had an adverse effect on much of the corn crop. Figure 1 shows the deviations from normal precipitation for the planting season. As you can see, much of Indiana has had 2-3 times more than normal rainfall amounts. Cold weather, excessively wet weather, or especially a combination of the two can cause many problems in a corn field, including:

- Diseases such as seedling blight
- Uneven emergence of plants
- Non-emerged plants causing inconsistent stands
- Ponding/excessive water flow

This excessive rainfall has led to record setting amounts of replant in the area. Whole fields, and in some cases entire farm operations, are being torn out and replanted. How is the decision made to replant? What are the most important factors that play in to this decision?

Accumulated Precipitation: Percent of Mean  
April 22, 2017 to May 21, 2017

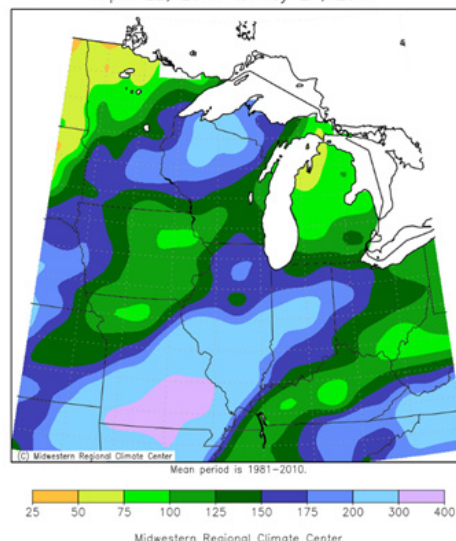


Figure 1: Deviations from normal precipitation for the planting season.

The most important thing to evaluate is what the crop looks like and whether it still has high enough yield potential to save. The primary method for determining this is a stand count. This is done by measuring off a 1/1000<sup>th</sup> of an acre strip at random and counting how many plants are viable in that strip. These counts are taken in multiple places across the field to represent a good sample of the average population in the field.

Timing of corn planting is critical to reaching full yield potential.

Therefore, when considering replanting, it is important to make sure it is still early enough in the season. When you are ready to replant, you must also make sure the upcoming forecast will allow plenty of time to get the new crop in.

The last thing to consider in a replant decision is the cost associated with replanting. The operation will require a tillage and planter pass, and possibly another herbicide application. Obviously, more

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Planting Date	Plant Population (1000 plants/acre)						
	10	15	20	25	30	35	40
	----- % of maximum yield -----						
April 1	54	68	78	88	95	99	99
April 10	57	70	81	91	97	100	100
April 20	58	71	81	91	97	100	99
April 30	58	70	80	89	95	97	96
May 9	55	68	77	86	91	93	91
May 19	50	63	72	80	85	86	84
May 29	44	56	65	73	77	78	75
June 8	35	47	56	63	67	67	64

Figure 2: The remaining yield potential of a corn crop based on date and stand count.

seed will be needed for what is to be replanted. After determining the stand and viability of the corn crop, it is important to use agronomic tools like the chart on the left to determine what the right thing to do is.

It is important to weigh all the factors mentioned above in making the decision to replant. Deciding to replant a pond that is completely bare is easy, but it can be very difficult to tear out entire fields and replant them. When making the replant decision, many people are often asked to weigh in. This might include the seed dealer, the crop insurance agent, farm managers, professional agronomists, and any other operation partners.

Visit the **Farmland 101** page on [www.farmfirstllc.com](http://www.farmfirstllc.com) to learn more about modern agriculture production.

## Landowner Spotlight

In 1862, Greenberry and Martha McCray were among the first people to settle in Newton County, Indiana. They built a log cabin on the Iroquois River and began farming the land they purchased for \$1.25/acre. They later moved to the town of Kentland where Greenberry owned the bank. Although they didn't actively farm for long, they saw value in holding onto the land to pass down to their children.

Their son, Warren McCray, had an entrepreneurial spirit. Much of the money he earned was invested into farmland to add onto the original family plot. He also invested in several grain elevators and built up a high-quality purebred cattle operation.

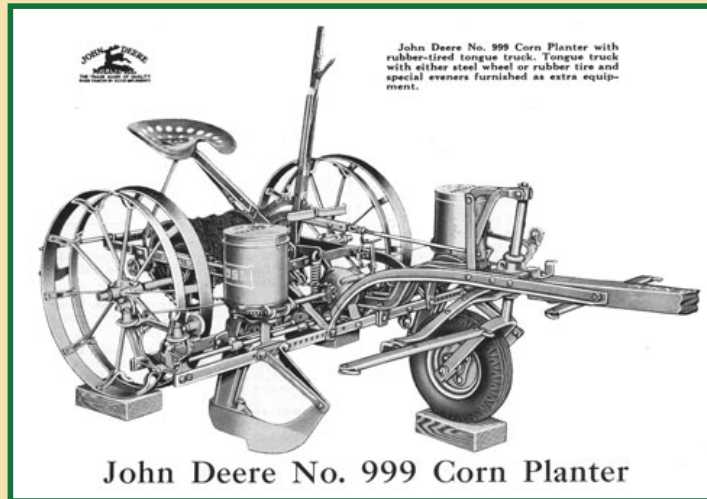
Warren McCray's granddaughter, Barbara Emison, has fond memories of spending her childhood summers on her grandparents' farm. She recalls driving the horses and wagons during threshing season, feeding cattle and making straw stacks. She also had a very important job on the farm.

"We had a truck called 'Red Baby' that was used to bring kerosene and gas to the fields. It was my job to ride along in Red Baby to deliver jugs of water to the men working in the field," Mrs. Emison says.



Some of the Emison family, Chloe, Barbara and Lucy, visit with farmer Jeff Welsh (r).

# ANTIQUA AGRICULTURE



John Deere's No. 999 corn planter is called one of the most successful planters of all time. It was the first planter of its kind that could be used to plant a variety of seeds. It also used 50% fewer moving parts than other planters on the market, resulting in less maintenance and a lower price.



Modern John Deere planters like the one shown here offer farmers more power, more even seed distribution and more ways to reach their yield potential come harvest time.

#### Answers from page 4

1. White; 2. 4; 3. Jordy Nelson; 4. John Deere (Sam Allen); 5. Edy's Grand Ice Cream; 6. Even

Now, at 92 years old, Mrs. Emison owns the original McCray family farm with her three daughters, Lucy, Nancy and Patricia. Mrs. Emison still makes a trip every summer to Newton County to visit her farm. Like her great-grandparents, Mrs. Emison saw value in keeping the family farm and sharing it with the next generation.

"Visiting the farm every summer gives us a sense of what's happening in rural America and keeps us grounded," Mrs. Emison says. "It connects us with our family history and brings us back to our roots. I think it is important for each generation to know about the contributions those before them made, and to remember there is somebody in the world besides themselves."

There are no more cattle to feed, and Red Baby is long gone, but Mrs. Emison is committed to making sure the land is taken care of just as it was under her grandfather's ownership. To do that, she has entrusted her farm to two entities. The first entity the Emisons work with is FarmFirst, LLC. The Emisons were one of the firm's first clients in 2007. One of the things Mrs. Emison most appreciates about FarmFirst is the personal interest FarmFirst invests in each client.

"We know that Dave really cares about us and has our best interest in mind. We always get honest, reliable advice. We are very happy to have FarmFirst managing our farm," Mrs. Emison says.

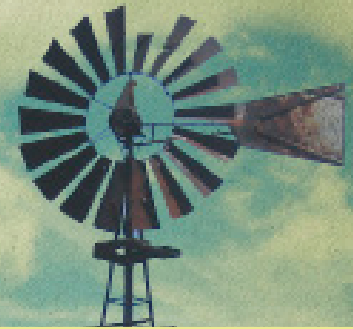
The other entity is Welsh Family Farms Inc., owned by Jeff and Teresa Welsh. When the previous tenant retired, FarmFirst selected three possible operators for the Emisons to interview. Lucy and Dave interviewed all three, and Lucy knew immediately Jeff was the right one for the job.

"We feel right at home with Jeff and Teresa," Mrs. Emison says. "We trust them to do a great job."



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**WINDMILL**



**FarmFirst, LLC**

**Real Estate Services**

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*do you know?*

Answer these agriculture-related questions and check your accuracy on page 3!

1. What county in Indiana is #1 in corn production?
2. Indiana ranks where in the U.S. for soybean production?
3. Which current Green Bay Packer wide receiver farms with his family in the off season?
4. The President and CEO of which major farm equipment company graduated from Purdue University?
5. What major ice cream brand is headquartered in Fort Wayne, Indiana?
6. Does an ear of corn always have an even or odd number of rows?

