

Yield Verification

How confident can we be in the yields attained in yield contests? Verification processes used in both the Iowa Master Corn Grower Contest and the National Corn Growers Yield Contest follow.

Iowa Master Corn Grower Contest

- A grower must be sponsored (group or commercial concern).
- A representative of the sponsor must supervise the harvesting, measuring, weighing, sampling, testing for moisture, calculation of yield, and completion of contest form.
- Harvest pattern is determined by harvesting the number of rows associated with equipment size, then skipping three times the number of harvested rows before harvesting the next pass. For example, six row equipment would harvest six rows, skip 18, harvest six, skip 18 until a 1.25 acre area has been harvested.
- If the first yield in a local contest is greater than 190 bu/A, the yield must be reported immediately to the Iowa Crop Improvement Association. Yields need to be reported by the yield verifier or the sponsor. If this is not the first reported yield, then only yields greater than the one most recently reported or yields greater than the highest verified yield need to be reported.
- If a reported yield is higher than the highest reported yield or equal to or higher than the highest verified yield in a district or qualifies for the state level in one or more of the various contest's divisions, the yield will be held for verification. The Iowa Crop Improvement Association will assign a representative of the Association to verify the yield. The representative will supervise the harvest of a minimum of 1.25 acres of corn, coming from the rows

skipped in the initial harvest pattern plus one set of skipped rows on one side. The Association's representative must witness all gross and tare weighings on a state-approved scale. The contestant must run the harvest machine, including the grain tank auger, to verify the machine is empty before beginning yield verification harvest.

- When yield is verified, a sample of grain will be collected by the Association's representative. A moisture test will be conducted by the Association on each corn sample. The yield resulting from yield verification and these tests will be considered the official yield.

National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) Yield Contest

- The entrant agrees to have any two of the following persons serve as his supervisor and assistant supervisor: an FFA advisor, vocational agricultural instructor, county Extension agent, county Extension agent's Assistant, senior staff person with Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly SCS), office manager of Consolidated Farm Service Agency (formerly ASCS), a Farm Credit Services representative, Farmers Home Administration representative, bank ag loan officer, private crop consultant, state or private college agriculture staff, farm manager accredited by the American Society of Farm Managers, Iowa Master Yield Contest checker employed by Iowa Crop Improvement Association, or a retired individual from one of these occupations. The supervisors cannot have financial or direct business ties to a company that sells agribusiness supplies, i.e. totally independent.
- The entrant shall select a plot of five or

more acres of corn, of which no part has been harvested, from a field of corn 10 or more acres in size of one corn hybrid. The contest area may be any shape, but must be in one continuous block of corn.

- At least one contest supervisor must be present at the initial yield check to supervise the harvesting, measuring, weighing, (gross and tare) moisture testing, and reporting to the NCGA office.
- The supervisor(s) must have the entrant run the combine empty to make certain no corn has been left in it by mistake. All wagons or trucks must be checked to make certain they are empty.
- The four outside rows on the sides of the field and the end rows may not be a part of the contest area.
- A set of rows shall be harvested, then three times that number skipped, another set harvested and three times that number skipped and so on until the required 1.25 or more acres have been harvested. For example, six row equipment would harvest six rows, skip 18, harvest six, skip 18 until a 1.25 acre area has been harvested.
- The entrant must leave unharvested the corn remaining from the original required

harvest pattern, plus one set of skipped rows on each side. The unharvested corn will be used for the recheck if the yield is 225 bu/A or more.

- One recheck is required for an initial yield check of 225 bu/A or more. Two supervisors are required to be present when rechecking the initial yield check for a yield of 225 bu/A or more. On initial yields of 250 bu/A or more, the supervisor(s) on the initial check cannot be used on the recheck. Two new supervisors must be approved by calling the NCGA office.
- All area measurements must be made with tape, chain, or measuring wheel.
- All corn must be weighed on a state-inspected scale. Supervisors must be present during the entire harvest check. All weigh wagons are prohibited.
- An experienced person must make a moisture determination of a representative sample of the corn. It is best to have the sample run through the meter three times and take an average of the three.



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Donald L. Armstrong, Editor