

NCGA  
**YIELD  
CONTEST**

# 2026 RULES



# Updates & Important Reminders for 2026

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## New in 2026

- **Class J is no longer limited to the first 100 entries.** The top three yields nationally will be ranked as national winners. Total applied nitrogen is a mandatory input on the entry form.
- **Class K – Short-Season Corn** - is a new pilot class limited to the first 100 entrants nationwide. Eligible entries may use any tillage or irrigation practice and must be a hybrid variety with a relative maturity of 99 days or less. The top three yields nationally will be ranked as national winners.
- The entry form now includes an input field for biologicals.

Submit Entries Online | [www.ncga.com/yield-contest](http://www.ncga.com/yield-contest)

## Grower's membership number is mandatory for all entries.

To **access your account** or create a new account, enter your email address or phone number. Verification will be sent to your mobile number or email with a one-time passcode to log in. New users will be prompted to provide their contact information to create an account.

Sales Reps can submit entries for customers using their unique login. All grower history created in the Rep log-in will be stored for retrieval.

To begin an entry for yourself or on behalf of a grower, the grower's NCGA membership number is required.

To locate an NCGA member number or create a new number, Reps should be ready to provide the grower's name, grower's mailing address, grower's unique phone number and grower's unique email address. Entries submitted with incorrect or incomplete grower mobile and/or grower email information will be disqualified.

If unable to locate the member number with the details above, email [yieldcontest@ncga.com](mailto:yieldcontest@ncga.com) or call NCGA at (636) 733-5512.

If the program does not locate a grower's membership based on their unique email or phone number, then submit the grower's contact information and a membership number will be assigned.

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# Entry Rules

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The NCGA Yield Contest has been organized to encourage the development of new, sustainable, and innovative management practices resulting in higher yields and to show the importance of using sound agricultural practices in U.S. corn production. Please read the rules carefully. Rules set forth herein apply to contest classes A through K. Additional rules for pilot Nutrient Management Class J are detailed herein.

## Contest Entrant Qualifications and Rules

- **Entrant must be a producer and member of the National Corn Growers Association and have a current membership paid through December 31 of the current year. The National membership also includes membership in the grower's State association (if applicable).**

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- **Member must provide a unique mobile number and unique email address. Entries submitted with incorrect grower mobile and/or grower email information will be disqualified.**

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- **Be at least fourteen (14) years of age at the time of entry. Proof of age may be requested.**

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- **Only individuals can enter the Yield Contest. The membership number used to enter the contest must have a corn producer's name listed as well as the member's current mobile number and email address. A member may enter multiple times with multiple hybrids and in multiple categories and the highest ranked hybrid will receive the award.**

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- **Memberships in multiple family names all belonging to the same farming operation must be active participants in the farming operation. Furthermore, each contest plot must be clearly assigned and labeled prior to harvest.**

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A member who requests a refund from their state corn checkoff between the dates August 1 of the previous year through July 31 of the current contest year is subject to disqualification per the request of the member's state corn association. A member farming at the same address as a refunder will also be disqualified.

State corn checkoff programs fund research, promotion, and educational efforts to enhance corn production and demand. The corn checkoff facilitates growth of existing markets and creates new uses by directing marketing, research and commercialization programs. Grower participation in the corn checkoff helps increase the demand for corn, ensuring a strong and profitable future for corn farmers. Refund requests undermine efforts to increase production efficiency, reduce market demand, and ultimately undermine farm profitability.

If requested, the entrant agrees to provide records to NCGA of his or her methods of handling and preparing the land; cultivation and weed control methods; insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, fertilizers, biologicals and rates of same that are used; the brand and variety of seed, seed rating; date of planting, type and brand of corn planter, row width and date of harvesting; and if an irrigator, the time of irrigation, amount of each application and whether a sprinkler or flow-on system.

Corn Board members and members of their families or employees of the National Corn Growers Association, may not compete in the contest.

## Class Descriptions

**Conventional Tillage** uses cultivation as the major means of seedbed preparation and weed control. It typically includes a sequence of soil tillage, such as ploughing and harrowing, to produce a fine seedbed leaving no crop residue on the field from the previous crop.

**No-Till** is defined as no mechanical tillage, from the prior year's harvest through the harvest of this year's contest, where the residue cover is left undisturbed with no mechanical tillage.

### Strip-Till, Minimum-Till, Mulch-Till, Ridge-Till

- **Strip-Till:** One-third of the row width or less is disturbed and may involve any combination of soil and residue disturbance. Planting or drilling is accomplished in a narrow seedbed or slot created by coulters, row cleaners, disk openers, in-row chisels, or rototillers. Weed control is accomplished with herbicides.
- **Minimum-Till:** Less intense than conventional tillage, to include tillage sequence designed to minimize or reduce loss of soil and water. Minimum tillage typically leaves a 30% or greater cover of crop residue on the surface after planting. Examples of minimum tillage include shallow tillage passes with field cultivators or disks set to a low aggressive setting. Soil mixing is a minimum. Minimum tillage does not use moldboard plowing or heavy disking. In the Southern U.S., residue decomposition may occur at a rate such that 30% of the residue is not present at planting.
- **Mulch-Till:** One hundred percent of the soil surface is disturbed by tillage whereby crop residues are mixed with the soil and a certain amount of residues remain on the soil surface.
- **Ridge-Till:** Less than one-third of the row width is disturbed at any point of time from prior year's harvest.

If a shank is used on a no-till field and no soil is disturbed the class would be no-till. The grower will need to determine, based on the amount of soil disturbed, if the tillage is categorized as strip-till or one of the other classes. If a soil finisher or chisel plow are used on a no-till plot, the class would be minimum-till.

All Non-Irrigated classes will use no artificial means of irrigating (i.e. diverting rainwater from ditches or streams).

## Classes

### A. Conventional Non-Irrigated

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### B. Conventional Non-Irrigated\*

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### C. No-Till Non-Irrigated

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### D. No-Till Non-Irrigated\*

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### E. Strip-Till, includes Minimum-Till, Mulch-Till, Ridge-Till Non-Irrigated

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### F. Strip-Till, includes Minimum-Till, Mulch-Till, Ridge-Till Class Non-Irrigated\*

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### G. No-Till Irrigated

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### H. Strip-Till, includes Minimum-Till, Mulch-Till, Ridge-Till Irrigated

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### I. Conventional Irrigated

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### J. Nitrogen Management - Total nitrogen from non-field sources is limited to 180 lbs./acre of actual nitrogen applied following the 2025 harvest and before the 2026 harvest.

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### K. Short-Season Corn - NEW IN 2026 – Pilot class limited to the first 100 entrants nationwide. Eligible entries may use any tillage or irrigation practice and must be a hybrid variety with a relative maturity of 99 days or less. The top three yields nationally will be ranked as national winners.

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***\*Plot located in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio or Wisconsin.***

**Contest class and hybrid cannot be changed at time of harvest.**

- **Select one class per entry and one hybrid per field, per entry.**
  - **Entry confirmations will remain available in the online platform throughout the contest period.**
  - **All entries must be submitted two (2) weeks prior to harvesting your plot, even if harvesting before the entry deadline.**
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## Yield Contest Plot

Contest entry must be *at least 10 continuous acres of one hybrid number*. No intercropping acreage may be included in a contest entry. Entry field may be larger than 10 acres. Contestant may select the best 10 acres in a corn field of the entered hybrid. The entry can be located anywhere in the continental U.S. The land entered in the contest must be owned or leased by the entrant. If leased, the lessor's name is required to be disclosed on the Harvest Entry.

### The definition of a field site is as follows:

**Supervisors must be able to determine location of each hybrid by a physical division in the field such as:**

- Skipped non-planted area, not part of contest acres
- 
- Flag or other marker to determine division
- 
- Definite planting pattern for each 10-acre plot
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### Harvest Rules must be applicable to each hybrid such as:

- 10-acre minimum of one hybrid number in each plot
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- All end-rows and an equal number of side-rows for each hybrid must be removed before starting a supervised harvest. A minimum of one header pass must be harvested around the entire field and may not be a part of the selected 10-acre contest plot.
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Continuous acres of one hybrid number is defined by the uniform width of the planter row spacing. The spacing of parallel corn rows may not be more than 120% of the planter row spacing and still qualify as continuous.

EXAMPLE: planter spacing is 30 inches, then the parallel corn rows may not exceed 36 inches ( $30 \times 1.20 = 36$ ).

In the interest of Best Management Practices, grass waterways and drainage ditches may be a part of the contest plot if at some point in the 10 acres the uniform planter row spacing is evident. The width of the grass waterway will be included in the harvested row length if corn rows are planted through the waterway. If the rows are planted alongside the waterway or drainage ditch and row lengths vary, the actual length of each row must be included in the total row length.

**Twin Row Planters** – If a twin-row planter is used to plant your contest field, you will have to do a little math to figure the row spacing. This will be determined by taking the center of the close row spacing to the next close row spacing.

EXAMPLE: Width between the close rows is 7.5" and the width of the large gap is 22.5".

You will then divide the 7.5" by 2 to get 3.75" (half of width between the close rows). Then take  $3.75" + 22.5" + 3.75" = 30"$  row spacing.

For the number of rows on the planter you will count two close rows as one row. Example: Number of boxes or rows on planter is 12. You will count every two rows as one so you will put down that you have a 6-row planter.

## Hybrid Qualifications

- Hybrid number must be currently commercially available for sale.

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- Fields with inter-planted rows of a GMO hybrid number and corresponding non-GMO hybrid number do **not** qualify for entry.

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- Fields with inter-planted row of a corn hybrid number and any other crop do **not** qualify for entry.

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- Hybrids with refuge corn intermixed in the bag are acceptable as one incorporated hybrid number.

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- The corn can be a hybrid of any color.

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## Contest Fees

- Any individual contestant may enter more than one hybrid number and more than one hybrid brand in any class.

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- An entry fee of \$90 per hybrid if entered online May 1 through June 30, 2026.

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- After June 30, \$125 per hybrid when entered online July 1 through entry deadline August 12, 2026.

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- Entry and/or Membership fees auto payment is built into the online entry for all hybrids participating in the Voucher Program. Payment completion will be verified on the Entry Confirmation.

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- Credit Card payment is available online on the entry for immediate payment for hybrids not in the Voucher Program.

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- The award will be given according to the state in which the hybrid is located.

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## Voucher Program

Seed companies participating in the Yield Contest by paying entry and membership fees when planting their hybrids in the column to the right. Certain conditions apply, see notations on brands.



## Participating Seed Companies

<b>AgriGold<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Preceon</b>
<b>AgVenture<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Revere Seed</b>
<b>Beck's Hybrids<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Seed Consultants</b>
<b>Brevant Seeds<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Seed Genetics Direct</b>
<b>Channel<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Syngenta Brands<sup>7</sup></b>
<b>DEKALB</b>	<b>Enogen</b>
<b>Dyna-Gro</b>	<b>Golden Harvest</b>
<b>FS InVISION</b>	<b>NK Brand</b>
<b>Hefty Seed</b>	<b>Taylor Seed Farms<sup>8</sup></b>
<b>Ohlde Seed<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>Wyffels Hybrids<sup>9</sup></b>
<b>Pioneer</b>	<b>Western Hybrids</b>

1. AgriGold paying the entry and membership fee for the first 100 entrants.

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2. AgVenture paying the entry fee for the first 25 entries | no membership fee

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3. Beck's Hybrids paying the entry and membership fee for the first 250 entrants

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4. Brevant Seeds paying the entry and membership fee for the first 100 entries

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5. Channel paying membership fee and one Channel brand entry per member

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6. Ohlde Seed paying the entry fee for the first 25 Entries | no membership fee

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7. Syngenta Brands: paying the entry and membership fee for the first 100 entrants

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8. Taylor Seed Farm paying the entry and membership fee for the first 30 entrants

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9. Wyffels Hybrids paying the entry and membership fee for the first 100 entrants

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## Submit Entries Online [www.ncga.com/yield-contest](http://www.ncga.com/yield-contest)

### Grower's membership number is mandatory for all entries.

Members and Sales Reps can submit entries at [www.ncga.com/yield-contest](http://www.ncga.com/yield-contest). Click here to read a step-by-step guide to submitting entries.

**To access your account** or create a new account, enter your email address or phone number. You'll receive a verification text or email with a one-time passcode to log in. New users will be prompted to provide their contact information to create an account.

**Sales Reps** can submit entries for customers using their unique login. All grower history created in the Rep log-in will be stored for retrieval.

**To begin an entry** for yourself or on behalf of a grower, the grower's NCGA membership number is required.

To locate an NCGA member number or create a new number, Reps should be ready to provide the grower's name, grower's mailing address, grower's unique mobile number and grower's unique email address. Entries submitted with incorrect or incomplete grower mobile and/or grower email information will be disqualified.

If unable to locate the member number with the details above, email [yieldcontest@ncga.com](mailto:yieldcontest@ncga.com) or call NCGA at (636) 733-5512.

If the program does not locate a grower's membership based on their unique email or phone number, then submit the grower's contact information and a membership number will be assigned.

## Membership Fees 2026

When you become a member of NCGA you also become a member of your state association. Visit [ncga.com/perks](http://ncga.com/perks) for member benefits.

STATE	1 - Year
Alabama	\$80
Colorado	\$95
Georgia	\$35
Illinois	\$75
Indiana	\$70
Iowa	\$60
Kansas	\$75
Kentucky	\$40
Louisiana	\$50
Maryland	\$50
Michigan	\$75
Minnesota	\$75
Mississippi	\$50
Missouri	\$60
Nebraska	\$80
New York	\$125
North Carolina	\$25
North Dakota	\$60
Ohio	\$100
Pennsylvania	\$40
South Carolina	\$100
South Dakota	\$150
Tennessee	\$60
Texas	\$60
Virginia	\$75
Wisconsin	\$60
ALL OTHER STATES	\$40

## Supervisor Selection for Online Entry

Each online entry must select an approved Supervisor prior to submission.

Approved Supervisor may be selected from the database within the entry form; stored information will auto-populate.

New Supervisors not located in the database may be submitted by completing their contact information on the entry (full name, business, job title, address, contact number, and email) and are subject to NCGA verification and approval. NCGA reserves the right to approve or deny any Supervisor and will notify the entrant if a Supervisor is not approved.

A Supervisor may not be related to the contestant and cannot be in ag retail, including but not limited to serving as a seed representative, chemical dealer, biologics or equipment manufacturer.

A different approved Supervisor may be selected at Harvest without amending the original entry.

Refer to the Harvest Information section for detailed Supervisor qualifications and responsibilities.

## Yield Contest Entry Summary

- **Complete the Yield Entry in its entirety online [www.ncga.com/yield-contest](http://www.ncga.com/yield-contest). Confirmation is stored in the member profile.**

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- **Entry and contest fees must be paid online by 4:30 pm Central Time no later than August 12, 2026.**

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- **Contest entry must be submitted two weeks prior to harvesting your yield contest plot (if you harvest before the entry deadline of August 12, 2026). Southern state growers please hold on to your harvest information to submit when online harvest entry becomes available August 13, 2026.**

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- **No refund of Entry Fees or Membership Dues will be issued after an entry is completed in the contest portal.**

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- **Harvest entry should be submitted within 14 days after harvest. Southern growers, see exception above.**

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- **Questions - contact NCGA.**

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# Harvest Rules

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## Harvest Entry

The contest plot must be harvested in accordance with the harvest procedures set forth by NCGA.

Harvest Entries are required to be completed and submitted online: [www.ncga.com/yield-contest](http://www.ncga.com/yield-contest)

- Enter the harvest results within two weeks after the final supervised yield check per individual entry is taken, or no later than November 30, 2026, whichever is the earlier date.

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- Contest entry must have been submitted two weeks prior to harvesting your yield contest plot (if harvested before the entry deadline of August 12, 2026).

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- The hybrid brand, number and trait package listed on the entry auto-fills to the harvest online form. You can make corrections up to three days after creating your entry. No additional changes can be made to the class or hybrid after the entry is completed.

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- NCGA reserves the right to contact harvest supervisors to validate compliance with contest rules. NCGA also reserves the right, with advance notification, to observe any harvest and/or assign NCGA representative supervisor(s) to observe any harvest(s).

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## Review of Field Requirements

Designate 10-acres or more of one entered hybrid of unharvested corn. The contest area may be any shape but must be in one continuous plot of corn with consistent space between planter passes. See Entry Rules for details.

- Entrants and Supervisors are responsible for giving accurate row lengths for odd shape plots.

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- All end rows/turning rows and the equal number of outermost rows on each side may not be a part of the selected 10-acre contest plot. A minimum of one header pass must be harvested around the entire field and may not be a part of the selected 10-acre contest plot.

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- A total of 1.2500 or more acres must be harvested as shelled corn with a multiple row harvester from the contest plot.

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- Designated 10-acre minimum plot size is required in the event a recheck of an additional 1.2500 minimum harvest is required of the entered hybrid.

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- The entrant agrees to harvest the contest field as shelled corn with a multiple row harvester.

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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 1.2500 or more acres have been harvested. It is acceptable if the 1.2500 acre minimum can be harvested in one continuous pass.

EXAMPLE:

Six-row harvester:

Harvest six rows – skip eighteen – harvest six – skip eighteen – repeat as needed.

Eight-row harvester:

Harvest eight rows – skip twenty-four – harvest eight – skip twenty-four – repeat as needed.

Twelve-row harvester:

Harvest twelve rows – skip thirty-six – harvest twelve – skip thirty-six – repeat as needed.

### **Supervisor Selection for the Harvest Entry**

The Supervisor selected on your entry must 1) be physically present during harvest 2) document the minimum 1.25000 acres harvested, 3) remain present through the weighing process, and 4) sign the weigh ticket confirming the gross weight, tare weight, and moisture reported. If your Supervisor is not available in the online portal you can add them on the entry form or contact NCGA to add them to the program. New Supervisor information may be emailed to [yieldcontest@ncga.com](mailto:yieldcontest@ncga.com) to include the Supervisor's name, address, business, job title, contact number and email address.

### **Qualifications: NCGA will approve supervisors active or retired from any of the following positions:**

- FFA Advisor/Vocational Agricultural Instructor
- County Extension Agent or Assistant
- (NRCS) Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees
- (FSA) Farm Service Agency Employees
- (SWCD) Soil & Water Conservation District Employees
- Farm Credit System Employees
- Bank Ag Loan Officer
- Private Crop Consultant or Agronomist
- College of Agriculture Instructor
- American Society of Farm Managers Accredited Farm Manager
- Crop Insurance Agents/Adjustors
- NCGA Corn Board and State Board members
- State Corn Association and Checkoff staff
- NCGA Corn Board and State Board members
- State Corn Association staff

## Supervisor Disqualifications

- Anyone that has a financial or direct business tie to a company that sells agribusiness supplies, such as Seed, Biologicals or Chemical reps, Farm Equipment salesmen.
- An employee or relative of the contest entrant
- The contest entrant

## Required Recheck - Supervisor Responsibilities Include:

- Two Supervisors must 1) both be physically present during the recheck harvest 2) document the minimum 1.25000 acres harvested, 3) both remain present through the recheck weighing process, and 4) both sign the recheck weigh ticket confirming the gross weight, tare weight, and moisture reported.
- The Supervisor present for the initial check may serve as one of the two Supervisors required for the recheck.
- Make sure the entrants run the combine and the transfer auger empty so no corn is left behind.
- Field measurements: Documenting the number of rows on the header and the length of each pass to record on the Acreage Harvest Worksheet.
- **Important:** Supervisor signatures are required on all weigh tickets as well as the Acreage Harvest Worksheet which is the document containing the acreage harvested (number of rows on the header and the length of each pass)
- Moisture reading(s) must be detailed on the harvest documents submitted with the entry.
- **Recheck Threshold:** 350.0000 bu./acre. Supervisor must contact NCGA to report all initial yield results exceeding the threshold and again to report the recheck yield result of the reported plot.
- The yield verification photo must capture a 36" length of the recheck plot prior to harvesting it.
- First, shuck back the husks on the ears being photographed in the 36" length.
- Second, cut the stalk off above the shucked back ears to distinguish it from the rows behind it.
- Record number of shucked back ears from the Yield Verification Photo on the Acreage Harvest Worksheet.
- If a recheck is performed but was not required, the initial check will stand.
- The entrant is responsible for submitting the information electronically, although, with permissions, the Supervisor or Sales Representative can complete the online Entry and Harvests. It is highly recommended that all parties retain copy of all confirmations for accurate verification.

**IMPORTANT**  
**FAILURE TO CONTACT NCGA**  
**WITH THE FIRST AND**  
**RECHECK YIELDS WILL**  
**RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION**

NCGA reserves the right, with advance notification, to observe any harvest and/or assign designated representative of NCGA. NCGA also reserves the right to contact harvest supervisors to validate compliance with contest rules.

## Initial Check

One supervisor must be present to document and sign the initial check. A minimum of one header pass around the entire field must be harvested before starting an initial check. The entrant selects the rows for the first pass; however, the supervisor needs to agree that an acceptable number of rows remain to establish a harvest pattern. If the field is contoured or terraced, the area left unharvested must be in each contour or terrace interval, adjacent and equal to the area originally harvested. The entrant must harvest at least 1.2500 acres to complete the initial check. The unharvested corn will be used for the recheck if required.

## Recheck

Two supervisors must be present to document and sign the recheck. A recheck of 1.2500 acres or more using the same harvest pattern in the rows next to the completed initial check is required if yield exceeds 350.0000 bushels per acre. Both the initial check and the recheck must be submitted online. The yield resulting from a required recheck will be considered the official yield if the initial check was harvested according to the requirements.

**Mandatory** - At time of harvest, the Supervisor is required to contact NCGA to report all initial yield results exceeding 350.0000 bushels per acre and again to report the recheck yield result of the reported plot, call 636-733-5512. After business hours and/or weekends leave a message to include the grower's name, supervisor's name, and yield results. This information may also be emailed directly to [ncyc@ncga.com](mailto:ncyc@ncga.com) at time of harvest of the first check as well as after the recheck. Failure to notify NCGA of yields greater than 350.0000 bu/acre will result in disqualification.

## Measuring

Preferred measurement tools are a tape or chain. Measuring wheels are acceptable for measurements but cannot be operated from a motorized vehicle. Verify wheel calibration for accurate measuring. (If not measured and recorded properly, it may result in changes in your official yield). A laser may also be used to measure only if the rows are straight and the field is flat. Laser has to be able to hit point to point. If the field has any kind of curve or slope to it, a laser cannot be used to measure. Checking laser calibration accuracy is recommended. Each measurement must be recorded on the Acreage Harvest Worksheet submitted to NCGA. Proper tape and chain measurements are taken with the measurement tool pulled tight but not off the ground surface. GPS is not allowed to be used to measure row lengths. Entrants deviating from this rule may be disqualified.

Row Length: If the rows are all the same length, measure the length of one row and record same length for each of the rows harvested. If the rows are not all the same length, measure down the center of each set harvested and record the length for each of the rows in the set. (On pivot irrigation do not subtract wheel space).

Row Width: Record the row width based on spacing of the planter row units, such as 15", 20", 30", 36", 38", etc. This should be the same as originally listed on your entry. NOTE: space between parallel outside planter row units must be reasonably close (not to exceed 120%) to the space between planter row units.

In the interest of Best Management Practices, grass waterways may be a part of the contest plot if the uniform planter row spacing is evident in the selected harvest acres. The length of the grass waterway will be included in the harvested row length if corn rows are planted in the waterway. If corn rows are not planted in the waterway, the actual length of each row shall not be included in the total row length.

## Yield Verification Photo

To increase transparency to high-yield entries, all entries over 350 bu./acre are required to include a photo with the recheck yield results. Photo submissions are mandatory but are not used to disqualify entries.

### Photo submission guide - see sample photo below:

- Photo must be a 3-ft. sample segment of the recheck rows to be harvested.

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- Ears in the photo of the recheck plot stand must be shucked back with the stalk removed above the exposed ears. This will differentiate it from the standing rows behind the photographed row.

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- If twin row corn is planted, both rows must be shucked back.

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- Photo to capture the base of the stalks being photographed as well as the crop residue on the ground from the first check harvest.

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- Photo to contain one diameter of a broken ear held by a supervisor to show the kernel depth.

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- Straight shot, full-body picture of the two supervisors holding yard stick or a 36-in. length of tape measure at corn level.

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- Supervisors' faces must be visible.

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- Supervisor must count the number of ears shown in the 36-in. measurement and record it on the Acreage Harvest Worksheet.

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- When reporting the high yield of the first check greater than 350 bu./acre, text photo to 636-675-3562.

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- Submit in the online contest portal as an attachment when submitting the harvest entry.

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*Tim Robinette left, Tom Krodel right. Photo courtesy of Kevin Kalb.*

## Calculating Acres Harvested

The total row length times the row width divided by 43,560 (square feet in one acre) equals acres harvested.

EXAMPLE: Four-row harvester, 20 rows harvested, each row 1,210 feet long. Row width 2.5 feet.

$1,210 \times 20 = 24,200 \times 2.5$  divided by  $43,560 = 1.3889$  acres. Total feet of row needed to equal 1.2500 acres

Row Width	Feet Needed	Row Width	Feet Needed
15" (1.2500')	43,560	30" (2.5000')	21,780
18" (1.5000')	36,300	32" (2.6667')	20,418
20" (1.6667')	32,669	36" (3.0000')	18,150
22" (1.8333')	29,700	38" (3.1667')	17,195
24" (2.0000')	27,225	40" (3.3333')	16,335

## Weighing

ALL WEIGH WAGONS ARE PROHIBITED.

It is recommended to weigh the corn as soon as possible after harvesting. The supervisor is required to accompany the harvest to the state certified scale. On-farm scale may be used and it must be state certified. Weigh ticket printout must detail the yield data, the name of the company where the weighing was done, and the name of the person doing the weighing. Please confirm that the electronic weigh ticket(s) attached to the harvest entry are legible and relative to the plot being entered. If NCGA receives a weigh ticket that is not legible, we will contact the grower for the original copy. Supervisors are required to sign the document containing computations for calculating acreage harvested as well as the weigh ticket(s) verifying they were present at time of weighing.

## Moisture Testing

NO HAND-HELD MOISTURE TESTERS ARE ALLOWED.

An entry will be disqualified if a hand-held moisture tester is used. A State certified testing device for corn at a grain handling facility may be used or a tabletop tester located on the farm or at a grain handling facility may be used. Run the sample through the meter three times and submit the average of the three. Supervisor(s) must be present during the representative sample of corn through the weighing and moisture testing process so they can then sign the weigh tickets to verify the gross, tare and moisture. Supervisor(s) must sign off on the printed moisture reading or the handwritten moisture readings if a printout is not available.

(All calculations must be carried to four decimal places): First, find the number of bushels of corn harvested, corrected to 15.5% moisture, then divide by the acres harvested to get bushels per acre.

To calculate bushels harvested corrected to 15.5% moisture, you take the total pounds of corn harvested, times the difference of 100%, minus the percent moisture in the corn, and divide by 47.32 (pounds of dry corn in a bushel of 15.5% corn).

EXAMPLE: 16,580 pounds of corn at 21.25% moisture.

$16,580 \times .7875$  (100% minus 21.25%) divided by  $47.32 = 275.9246$  bushels of corn at 15.5% moisture  
 $275.9246$  divided by  $1.3889 = 198.6641$  bushels per acre

# Harvest Recap

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Weigh ticket(s), and harvest calculations with moisture reading must be signed by each official supervisor per guidelines. Review your uploaded attachments. **Any entry containing unsigned documents will not be approved or included in the 2026 rankings.**

Harvest entries should be submitted no later than 14 days after the final supervised yield check per individual entry is taken or November 30, 2026, whichever is the earlier date.

The online harvest entry opens August 13 and will close November 30, 2026 at 4:30 pm Central Time. Harvest entries will not be accepted after November 30. There are no exceptions due to time needed to compute results and notify winners for recognition at the 2027 Commodity Classic.

Contest results will be released on December 15, 2026. Yield results obtained from plots that are entered into the Yield Contest are the property of NCGA and not to be released, including social media posting, prior to NCGA publishing the winners at [www.ncga.com/yield-contest](http://www.ncga.com/yield-contest).

Decisions of NCGA's Contest Committee in all matters are final. The Yield Contest Committee reserves the right to disqualify any entry without a refund for violation of these stated rules and non-approved industry promotional activities. If you have any questions, contact NCGA.

## Contest Awards

Each membership is eligible to win only one award. If an entrant enters two or more hybrids and all place as a winner or runner-up, a trophy will be awarded only for the highest-ranking hybrid. Trophies will be awarded to first, second and third place national winners. The subsequent state high yields will be awarded first, second and third place to state winners in classes A through I. Class J will award a first, second and third place trophy across the entire class. Class K will award a first, second and third place trophy across the entire class. The individual's name listed on the membership will be recognized, not the business name. Trophies will be mailed to the winners after Commodity Classic 2027.

Approved Promotional Activities for Industry:

- Pay entrants NCGA National and Affiliate State annual dues
- Pay entrants Yield Contest entry fee(s)
- Provide national winners cash or other awards totaling a maximum \$10,000. Lesser amounts may be awarded to second and third place national winners. Lesser amounts may be provided to state winners.
- Provide Commodity Classic travel expenses, lodging, meals, and registration to all 33 national winners and state winners. May include immediate family members, operation partners or other individuals with active participation in the Yield Contest plot.
- Provide national and state winners with company products, in accordance with label rates, sufficient to plant up to the minimum contest plot of ten acres.

Any promotional activity not approved above requires written approval by the Yield Contest Committee before promoting to the nation's corn growers. The Yield Contest Committee reserves the right to disqualify any entry without a refund for violation of these stated rules and non-approved industry promotion activities.

# Class J

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## NITROGEN MANAGEMENT CLASS OVERVIEW

Farmers in the class will limit total nitrogen applications from non-field sources to 180 lbs. of actual nitrogen applied. The three highest-yielding entries in the class will be declared preliminary winners and **confirmed as class winners after an NCGA verification of actual nitrogen applied.**

### CLASS RULES:

Please note the difference in items to be **submitted** and items to be **recorded**:

Items to be **submitted** must be attached to either the yield contest application or yield submission forms.

Items to be **recorded** must be maintained by the farmer and produced for NCGA in the event they are selected as a preliminary winner and will have the records audited.

### Limitations on Nitrogen use:

**The total amount of nitrogen supplied by synthetic and organic sources, such as manures and compost, will be limited to a predetermined rate of 180 lbs.**

Any nitrogen, including both synthetic and readily available organic-based nitrogen, applied to the field within the crop year will be counted towards the total amount of nitrogen allotted for the field. The day following harvest of the previous crop until the day of harvest of the yield contest entry plot will constitute a crop year.

Nitrogen sources counting towards the total include but are not limited to: synthetically produced nitrogen sources such as anhydrous ammonia, UAN, DAP, MAP, AMS etc., as well as manure or compost sources, municipal wastes, and industrial by-products. All products must be approved for agricultural use.

Any products outside of conventional fertilizers, such as manures, composts and byproducts, will require a nutrient test or product label to show readily available nitrogen to be counted towards the total. **In short, all available nitrogen applied to the field must be counted towards the total allowed.**

An analysis of readily available nitrogen from these products must be provided from a lab certified with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. A full list of those labs is available at [Certified Manure Testing Laboratories \(state.mn.us\)](http://state.mn.us). In some instances, labs may have state level certification and not be on this list. If you wish to use a lab with state level certification for analysis, please check with NCGA ([yieldcontest@ncga.com](mailto:yieldcontest@ncga.com)) prior to submitting samples.

For farmers using variable rate applications, the maximum rate (not the average rate) cannot exceed the 180 lbs. on the contest plot.

For all manure or compost applications a coverage map must be submitted with the application; a geospatial file should be recorded and is to be provided upon request. For liquid applications of manures an "as applied" map with rate and coverage is acceptable for rate verification. For non-liquid applications a record of the amount of product must be recorded such as an invoice or scale ticket in addition to a coverage map to verify total application weight and submitted upon request.

# Class J cont.

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Any variable rate application of nitrogen products must have the image of the coverage and rate map submitted with the application; a geospatial file should be recorded and is to be provided upon request.

Use of biological and other products to develop soil nitrogen for plant use is permitted, but any nitrogen contained in these products will need to be accounted for and go towards the competition total. Therefore, all biological products, seed treatments, and soil amendments applied at a rate greater than 1lb. per acre must either have a label accounting for composition or a nutrient analysis test submitted.

For the harvest yield submission, the farmer must provide a yield map for the field. A PDF image should be submitted with the harvest entry and a geospatial file should be recorded and made available upon request.

## Limitations on previous crops:

The field on which the yield contest entry is grown may have only been planted the previous year in corn, soybeans or wheat. A double crop system of wheat followed by soybeans is acceptable, as is a cover crop application after any of the eligible previous crops. Harvested forage crops seeded after the acceptable cash crops are also allowed (example: forage crop seeded after wheat). Companion cropping of cover crops is also allowed for the competition crop or previous crop. Corn cut for silage is acceptable.

To avoid stacking nitrogen in the previous year's crop, some basic restrictions will be in place for the crop year prior to the competition year:

**Corn:** Less than 300 lbs. total nitrogen applied to the prior corn crop (less than 200 lbs. applied *after emergence*).

**Soybeans:** Nitrogen applied to soybeans must be less than 100 lbs. total and less than 30 lbs. applied after planting.

**Wheat:** Total nitrogen applied for the wheat crop must be less than 200 lbs. If a harvestable crop is to be seeded after wheat harvest, such as double crop beans or forages, the total additional nitrogen applied must be less than 50 lbs.

This information will be verified by NCGA if the contest entry is declared a preliminary winner.

## Verification, Submission and Record Keeping:

All inputs including fertilizer, pesticides, biological amendments and seed variety as well as tillage and cultural practices and previous crop must be recorded and submitted to NCGA with the contest application. Product labels and written records should be kept and provided upon request.

Farmers who purchase products in bulk for the farm, and do not have a record of purchase by field will need to provide application maps that include both coverage and rate of products containing nitrogen as well as written application records. A PDF image should be submitted with application and geospatial file should be recorded and provided upon request.

Participants may submit management data based on an entire field, or for a 10-acre portion of a field if applications are consistent.

**Yield evaluation will always be based on a 10-acre sample, as is required for all yield contest entries.**

# Class J cont.

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If the participant wishes to submit only a portion of the field, where the field average will receive a larger amount of nitrogen than the competition rate, but the submitted portion will be within competition rate, they must submit variable rate and coverage maps for all applications of nitrogen. For example, if an 80-acre field received 220 lbs. of nitrogen but a 10-acre plot received the competition rate, application maps must be submitted to support the stated applications and ensure the competition block was accurately applied.

## **Class Winners + Audit Process:**

For all entries declared a preliminary winner (the top three yields reported in the class), an audit will be conducted to verify that data reported is accurate. In the event of an audit, a meeting with NCGA personnel will occur and the following will need to be provided to verify accuracy of reported applications:

Cash receipts that are broken out by contest field and other documents to verify recorded and submitted numbers. Cash receipts by field are not needed if application maps with rates are available for all applications.

Nutrient analysis and record of lbs. applied for all manures and composts and product labels for any non-standard fertilizer, biological or foliar feed products applied.

Geospatial application maps of all nitrogen products with rate and coverage. If no variable rate applications are made, then records or an invoice from a retailer or custom applicator that is broken down by field is acceptable. *As stated above, if the farmer purchases products in bulk for the entire operation, application maps with rates must be submitted.*

The audit system is in place to ensure the integrity of the competition and is not intended to be intrusive. **All disclosed information, both written and verbal, is confidential and no records or other information submitted to NCGA will be shared with any outside partners or members of the press.**

The audit should take less than one hour if appropriate records have been kept.

## Information Required for Class J Harvest Entry

**The harvest rules for the Nitrogen Management Class are one and the same as all contest plots as detailed on page 15, and additional rules apply specifically only to the Nitrogen Management Class are detailed herein:**

The 10-acre nitrogen management plot must be clearly marked and appropriate buffer zones used. Nitrogen sources include (but not limited to):

- Synthetically produced nitrogen sources such as anhydrous ammonia
- UAN
- DAP
- MAP
- AMS
- Manures or compost sources
- Municipal solids
- Industrial by-products

For variable-rate applications, the maximum rate (not the average rate) cannot exceed the 180 lbs./acre total rate on the submitted competition acres.

Application maps for all nitrogen applications that include rate and coverage must be submitted as an attachment on the harvest entry.

Yield evaluation is based on a 10-acre sample, just like all other contest categories.

Previous year's crop must be corn, soybeans, wheat, or double-crop wheat/soybeans. Harvested forage crops seeded after acceptable cash crops (corn, soybeans, wheat) are also allowed.

To avoid stacking nitrogen from the previous year:

- **Corn:** less than 300 lbs. of total nitrogen applied in the prior corn crop year (less than 200 lbs. of that can be applied after planting, and no nitrogen can be applied after VT)

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- **Soybeans:** Less than 100 lbs./acre total nitrogen applied to previous soybean crop (less than 30 lbs./acre applied after planting).

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- **Wheat:** Less than 200 lbs./acre total nitrogen applied to the previous wheat crop. If a harvestable crop was seeded after wheat harvest, such as double crop beans or forages, the total additional nitrogen applied must be less than 50 lbs.

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All inputs, including fertilizer, pesticides, biological amendments, seed variety and biological traits, as well as tillage, cultural practices, and the previous crop, must be recorded and submitted to NCGA with the contest application.

For manure, compost or biological product applications that are not variable-rate, a coverage and nitrogen rate map (PDF) is required.

If using variable-rate application of nitrogen products, submit a coverage and rate map (PDF).

RECORDED DATA TO KEEP ON FILE (for yield audit):

- **Maintain as-applied geospatial application maps of all nitrogen-containing products with rate and coverage.**
- **Maintain cash receipts and other documents broken out by contest field to verify recorded and submitted numbers.**
- **Keep nutrient analysis and records of lbs. applied for all fertilizers, manures and composts as well as product labels for any biological or foliar feed products applied.**

# Class J FAQ

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## Class J Frequently Asked Questions:

*Why is manure counted the same as synthetic nitrogen products towards the total nitrogen allowed?*

While manure properly managed is a valuable resource, the use of manure to provide nitrogen sources for crops at a basic level is not a new practice. In addition, frequent and continued use of manure to provide a complete source of nitrogen may result in overloading the soil with other nutrients, such as phosphorus. We hope to encourage growers to look at the long-term ability of livestock manures to provide nitrogen beyond the year they are applied and to benefit overall soil health as a way compete in this program.

*Why is crop rotation beyond corn, soybeans and wheat not allowed?*

At this time we have determined it is not viable to include high nitrogen-producing crops ahead of the contest year. For example, alfalfa can provide all the nitrogen a corn crop needs the following year. While this is a great practice, there are two reasons we have chosen to exclude it from the competition: One, it is not a new practice but rather a known means of nitrogen production that is already practiced on large acres in some areas. Second, allowing applications of up to 180 lbs. of nitrogen to a soil system already providing sufficient nitrogen would defeat the intention of this class.

*If I use a product that claims it can reduce the amount of nitrogen that is applied, but does not contain nitrogen, do I need to account for the amount of nitrogen the product claims to replace?*

In short no, you only need to account for any actual nitrogen that is contained in the product itself, not any potential nitrogen it could replace through other means. There are many exciting new products that are working toward lowering the amount of nitrogen that is needed to be applied to produce a high yielding corn crop. Many of these products do not contain any actual nitrogen, but our concern is some may be applied or prepackaged with carriers or other products that may contain nitrogen. Any product applied at less than 1lb to the acres does not need any documentation as to inert ingredients or carriers. *If a product claims to provide a certain amount of nitrogen while not containing actual nitrogen, this amount does not need to be included in the 180 lbs. total.*

# Yield Calculation Formula

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\*This is a worksheet only. Does not need to be submitted with your harvest documents

1) Total length of all rows harvested \_\_\_\_\_ X row width \_\_\_\_\_  
÷ 43,560 (square feet in one acre) = \_\_\_\_\_ acres harvested (Minimum 1.25 acres)

2) Load A: Gross \_minus tare\_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ pounds of corn

Actual corn moisture percent\_\_\_\_(2 decimal places only)

Pounds of corn\_\_\_\_\_X adjusted moisture (100%-%) moisture \_\_\_\_\_

÷ 47.32 (pounds of completely dry corn/bushel) = \_\_\_\_\_ bushels harvested.

Load B: Gross \_\_\_\_\_ minus tare \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ pounds of corn

Actual corn moisture percent \_\_\_\_\_ (2 decimal places only)

Pounds of corn\_\_\_\_\_ X adjusted moisture (100%-%) moisture) \_\_\_\_\_

÷ 47.32 (pounds of completely dry corn/bushel) = \_\_\_\_\_ bushels harvested.

\_\_\_\_\_ bushels harvested ÷ \_\_\_\_\_ acres harvested = \_\_\_\_\_ bushels per acre

# Supervisor Checklist

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\*This is a worksheet only. Does not need to be submitted with your harvest documents

## Visual Pre-Harvest

- YES  NO Does the planting practice match the Entry class?
- YES  NO End rows/turning rows pre-harvested?
- YES  NO Harvester and auger were run to make certain no corn was left behind?
- YES  NO Is all transportation equipment empty?

## Visual Harvest

- YES  NO Harvester was always in view?
- YES  NO Transportation equipment always in view?
- YES  NO Transfer of grain started and completed with supervisor present?
- YES  NO If row length(s) measure by wheel, was the calibration checked?
- YES  NO A minimum of 1.25 acres harvested?

## Visual Post-Harvest

- YES  NO Transporting of equipment was always in view when being moved to the scales?
- YES  NO Viewed samples being taken for moisture and calculation completed?
- YES  NO Is the scale a state certified testing device?
- YES  NO Observed all unloading, weighing and dumping?
- YES  NO Were harvest rules provided by the entrant?
- YES  NO Has the certified weigh station provided a printout listing the gross, tare and moisture for the supervisor to sign.

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**IMPORTANT: Supervisor is required to sign BOTH the weigh ticket and Acreage Harvest Worksheet**

**NO WEIGH WAGONS ALLOWED**

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# Harvest Acreage Worksheet with Signature

Grower Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Hybrid: \_\_\_\_\_

Row width: (based on spacing of the planter row units, this should be the same as listed on entry.)

Row spacing between planter row units = \_\_\_\_\_ inches ÷ 12 = \_\_\_\_\_ feet of row width

\*Row length in feet: Record each pass through the field separately. Record all calculations to four decimal places.

\*Ref: Harvest Rules, Measuring

1.2500 harvested in one continuous pass: \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ ft = \_\_\_\_\_ ft  
# of rows harvested with row length one header pass      Row length      Total

Multiple passes to harvest 1.2500 minimum: 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 1.2500 or more acres have been harvested.

Example of multiple passes:

Six-row harvester: Harvest six rows – skip eighteen – harvest six – skip eighteen – repeat as needed.

\_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ ft = \_\_\_\_\_ ft  
# of rows harvested with header pass      Row length      Total row length one

\_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ ft = \_\_\_\_\_ ft  
# of rows harvested with header pass      Row length      Total row length one

\_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ ft = \_\_\_\_\_ ft  
# of rows harvested with header pass      Row length      Total row length one

\_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ ft = \_\_\_\_\_ ft  
# of rows harvested with header pass      Row length      Total row length one

\_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ ft = \_\_\_\_\_ ft  
# of rows harvested with header pass      Row length      Total row length one

Total length of all rows = \_\_\_\_\_ ft

\*\*Total length of all rows harvested \_\_\_\_\_ X row width \_\_\_\_\_ ÷ 43,560  
(Sq. Ft. in an acre)

(square feet in one acre) = \_\_\_\_\_ acres harvested. (Min of 1.25 acres)  
\*\*Ref: harvest Rules, Calculating Acres harvested

RECHECKS ONLY: Record number of shucked back ears from the Yield Verification Photo \_\_\_\_\_

This printable worksheet contains signature lines and can be taken with you to the field to be later uploaded and attached to your online harvest entry. Calculations recorded on any document are also acceptable provided they are approved with Supervisor signature(s).

Submit final yield information via NCGA's ONLINE harvest entry at [www.ncga.com/yield-contest](http://www.ncga.com/yield-contest)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE  
 Initial check

\_\_\_\_\_  
 2<sup>nd</sup> SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE  
 Recheck