Corn Yield Response to Seeding Rate

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Objective
To determine effects of corn seeding rate on grain yield and profitability.

Background
Crop Year: 2017
Location: Fayette, OH
County: Fulton
Drainage: Random
Previous Crop: Soybean
Variety: Pioneer 0843
Planting Date: May 24
Harvest Date: November 10

Methods
This trial was designed with five treatments replicated four times in a randomized complete block design. Plots were 12 rows wide (30 ft), by 1400 feet long. All treatments received the same starter fertilizer, herbicide and sidedress nitrogen applied by the cooperator with commercial farm equipment. Stand counts were taken after emergence was complete by obtaining ten counts per treatment and calculating the simple average. Ears counts were taken on the day of harvest by obtaining ten counts per treatment and calculating the simple average. Yields and moistures were measured with a calibrated Ag Leader yield monitor. Yields were adjusted to 15% moisture. Precipitation data was recorded at the nearest CoCoRaHS station (OH-FL-9).

Treatments:
1. 23,000 seeds per acre
2. 28,000 seeds per acre
3. 33,000 seeds per acre
4. 38,000 seeds per acre
5. 43,000 seeds per acre

Results: Corn Yield Response to Seeding Rate (All results listed per acre)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seeding Rate (seeds)</th>
<th>Harvest Stand (plants)</th>
<th>Seed Cost* ($/ac)</th>
<th>Moisture (%)</th>
<th>Yield (bushels)</th>
<th>Return Minus Seed Cost* ($/ac)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23,000</td>
<td>23,900</td>
<td>$79</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>191.5</td>
<td>c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28,000</td>
<td>26,200</td>
<td>$96</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>202.8</td>
<td>b</td>
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<tr>
<td>33,000</td>
<td>32,600</td>
<td>$114</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>213.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>38,000</td>
<td>38,300</td>
<td>$131</td>
<td>23.4</td>
<td>208.9</td>
<td>ab</td>
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<tr>
<td>43,000</td>
<td>41,600</td>
<td>$148</td>
<td>23.9</td>
<td>210.6</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LSD (P<.05, CV 2.3) 7.3

*Based on $3.44/1,000 seeds and $3.44 market price (Source: OSUE Corn Production Budget 2017)
Discussion:
There was no statistical significance for yield among the seeding rates 33,000-43,000 seeds per acre. Seeding rates of 23,000 and 28,000 seeds per acre resulted in a significantly lower yield than the other, higher seeding rates. Further data in the form of multi-year replications will add to the validity of these results.

Acknowledgement
The authors express appreciation to on-farm collaborator Les Seiler for his help in planting and harvesting this plot. Thanks to Ross Andre and Kaitlin Ruetz for assistance with data collection, processing and report write up.

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