ENTRY & HARVEST RULES 2023

NATIONAL CORN YIELD CONTEST®

NATIONAL CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

04-28-2023

Contents

Entry Rules

The NCGA National Corn 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 United States corn production. Please read the rules carefully. Rules set forth herein apply to contest classes A thru I. Additional rules for pilot Nutrient Management Class J are detailed herein.

Contest Entrant Qualifications and Rules

- **Entrant must be a producer and member (regular, lifetime, honorary lifetime, or student) 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).**
- **Be at least fourteen (14) years of age at the time of entry. Proof of age may be requested.**
- **Only individuals can enter the National Corn 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 email address. A member may enter multiple times with multiple hybrids and in multiple categories and the highest ranked hybrid will receive the award.**
- **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.**

A member who requests a refund from their state 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 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.

National officers, directors 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. 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 Contest Field

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).

Nitrogen Management

- Not specific to any tillage and irrigation practice
- Pilot class limited to the first 100 entrants from the following nine states: Kansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Wisconsin
- Total nitrogen from non-field sources is limited to 180 lbs./acre of actual nitrogen applied following the 2022 harvest and before the 2023 harvest.

Classes

A. Conventional Non-Irrigated

B. Conventional Non-Irrigated*

C. No-Till Non-Irrigated

D. No-Till Non-Irrigated*

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

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

G. No-Till Irrigated

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

I. Conventional Irrigated

J. Nitrogen Management

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.**
- **Retain confirmation copy for your records.**
- **All entries must be submitted two (2) weeks prior to harvesting your NCYC plot, even if harvesting before the entry deadline.**
- **Contact NCGA (ncyc@ncga.com) if a correction needs to be made on your entry. Members can't edit entries after the confirmation is generated.**

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 United States. 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 a:

- **Skipped non-planted area, not part of contest acres**
- **Flag or other marker to determine division**
- **Definite planting pattern for each 10-acre plot**
- **Making the call by differences in physical appearance of the plant and/or ear only will not qualify.**

Harvest Rules must be applicable to each hybrid such as:

- **10-acre minimum of one hybrid number in each plot**
- **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.**

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 x *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.**
- **Fields with inter-planted rows of a GMO hybrid number and corresponding non-GMO hybrid number do not qualify for entry.**
- **Fields with inter-planted row of a corn hybrid number and any other crop do not qualify for entry.**
- **Hybrids with refuge corn intermixed in the bag are acceptable as one incorporated hybrid number.**
- **The corn can be a hybrid of any color.**

Contest Fees

- **Any individual contestant may enter more than one hybrid number in any class.**
- **An entry fee of $75 per hybrid if entered online May 1 through June 30, 2023.**
- **After June 30, $110 per hybrid when entered online July 1 through entry deadline August 16, 2023.**
- **Entry and/or Membership fees auto payment is built into the online entry for all hybrids participating in the 2023 Voucher Program. Payment completion will be verified on the Entry Confirmation.**
- **Credit Card payment is available online for immediate payment for hybrids not in the Voucher Program.**
- **Personal check payment is also accepted for hybrids not in the Voucher Program. The entry will be finalized only after receipt of the check payment mailed to**

  NCGA
  P.O. Box 407
  Chesterfield, MO 63006

- **State membership dues must also be included in payment if you are not a current member. If your farm is on or near a state line and your hybrid entered is in one state but your mailing address is in another, you must indicate this when completing the Harvest Entry. The award will be given according to the state in which the hybrid is located.**

Voucher Program

Seed brands participating in the National Corn Yield Contest by paying entry and membership fees when planting the hybrids below:

- **AgriGold**
- **AgVenture***
- **Brevant Seeds***
- **Champion Seed***
- **Channel***
- **DEKALB**
- **Dyna-Gro**
- **Enogen**
- **FS InVISION**
- **Golden Harvest**
- **Hefty Seed**
- **LG Seeds**
- **NK Brand**
- **Pioneer**
- **Renk Seed***
- **Revere Seed**
- **Seed Consultants**
- **Seed Genetics Direct**
- **Taylor Seed Farms***
- **Wyffels Hybrids***

Certain conditions apply, visit ncga.com/ncyc for details.

Submit Entries Online

www.ncga.com/ncyc

An NCGA membership number along with postal code are required to begin an entry.

Members and Sales Reps should be ready to provide the entrant name, mailing address, phone number and email address to locate an NCGA number or to create a new number.

Sales Reps can establish a log-in with their own email address and personal password to access the grower information including membership number and postal code. All grower history created in the Rep log-in will be stored for retrieval.

Membership Fees 2023

When you become a member of NCGA you also become a member of your state association. Visit ncga.com/perks for member benefits.

STATE	1 - Year
Alabama	$80
Colorado	$95
Georgia	$35
Illinois	$75
Indiana	$70
Iowa	$60
Kansas	$50
Kentucky	$40
Louisiana	$50
Maryland	$50
Michigan	$75
Minnesota	$75
Mississippi	$50
Missouri	$60
Nebraska	$80
New York	$99
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

Include the dues rate for your state of residence if you are not a current member. Dues vary according to state programs

Supervisor Selection for the Online Entry

Contest online entry must contain Supervisor information prior to completing the entry. All current approved Supervisors are stored in the database and can be located using the search bar within each entry. Once selected your Supervisor's information on file will populate to your online entry. A different approved Supervisor may be selected at time of Harvest and does not need to be corrected on the entry. To request a new Supervisor not currently available in the database, contact NCGA for approvals. Complete Supervisor information must contain their full name, business, job title, address, telephone number and email address.

A supervisor cannot be related to the contestant, be a seed corn representative, chemical dealer, equipment manufacturer or be an employee, employer, manager, or seed consultant of the contestant or of the farming operation entering.

See the Supervisor chart in the Harvest info for Supervisor qualifications and duties.

Information Required for Online Contest Entry

- Choose the correct state where the contest field is located (not the state of residence)
- Select irrigated or non-irrigated. Irrigated fields that do not utilize artificial irrigation in a growing season due to rainfall must still be classified as irrigated.
- Select tillage type: Conventional, No-Till, or Strip-Till which includes Ridge-Till, Minimum-Till, and Mulch-Tillage
- Classes A through I: The online entry program will automatically assign the entry class based on tillage, irrigation and the state plot location
- Class J may be any tillage, irrigation and located in the states of Kansas, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio and Wisconsin only.
- Estimated percent of crop residue on the field surface after planting for class entries other than conventional.
- Hybrid Brand and Number
- Name of Sales Rep
- Sales Rep I.D. # for Pioneer entries and MTSA # for DEKALB entries
- Date planted
- Row spacing (inches)
- Number of rows on planter (4, 6, 8, 12, etc.)
- Planter make & model
- Previous year's crop
- Is your farm participating in a sustainability program
- Are cover crops used on any part of your operation Yes/No
- Are you actively reducing tillage practices Yes/No
- Do you have an active integrated pest management plan Yes/No
- Are you an integrated crop and livestock operation utilizing manure Yes/No
- Chemical seed treatment
- Was a soil test taken for the contest field. If yes, what year?
- List Herbicides, Insecticides and Fungicides – how much, how applied & when applied
- List at least one Supervisor on the entry. Current, approved Supervisors can be located using the search bar.

Summary of Entering the National Corn Yield Contest

- **Complete the NCYC Entry in its entirety online www.ncga.com/ncyc and retain a confirmation copy for your records. Confirmation is stored in the member profile in the entry system throughout the contest.**

- **Entry and contest fees must be completed online by 4:30 pm Central Time no later than August 16, 2023.**

- **Contest entry must be submitted two weeks prior to harvesting your NCYC plot (if you harvest before the entry deadline of August 16, 2023). Southern state growers please hold on to your harvest information to submit when the harvest entry becomes available August 17, 2023.**

- **If paying with a check for your entry fee and membership dues, mailed check must accompany a copy of your Entry Confirmation. Entry will not be considered complete until payment is received.**

  Mail Check with Entry Confirmation, payable to:
  National Corn Growers Association
  P.O. Box 407
  Chesterfield, MO 63006

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

- **Harvest entry should be submitted within 14 days after harvest. See exception above where Southern growers may need to retain their harvest information until the program opens August 17, 2023.**

- **Questions - contact NCGA.**

Harvest Rules

Harvest Entry

The contest entry 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/ncyc

- **Enter the harvest results within two weeks after the final supervised yield check per individual entry is taken, or no later than November 30, 2023, whichever is the earlier date.**
- **Contest entry must have been submitted two weeks prior to harvesting your NCYC plot (if harvested before the entry deadline of August 16, 2023). Southern state growers harvesting prior to the harvest entry period opening must retain their harvest information to enter their plot results when the harvest entry is available August 17, 2023.**
- **The hybrid brand, number and trait package listed on the entry automatically transfers to the harvest entry. A change to the hybrid number can only be made by NCGA Administration and must be done prior to harvesting. Hybrid brand cannot be changed (i.e. Entering a DEKALB hybrid on the Entry and changing to a Pioneer hybrid on the Harvest is not allowed). Additionally, any hybrid change request must be completed at least two weeks prior to harvest.**
- **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 observes any harvest(s).**

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 block of corn. Continuous: Space between planter passes. See Entry Rules for details.

- **Entrants and Supervisors are responsible for giving accurate row lengths for odd shape plots.**
- **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.**
- **A total of 1.2500 or more acres must be harvested as shelled corn with a multiple row harvester from the contest plot.**
- **Designated 10-acre minimum plot size is recommended in the event a recheck of an additional 1.2500 minimum harvest is required of the entered hybrid.**
- **The entrant agrees to harvest the contest field as shelled corn with a multiple row harvester.**

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:

Four-row harvester:

Harvest four rows – skip twelve – harvest four – skip twelve – repeat as needed.

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

Supervisor approved on your Entry Confirmation may complete the initial check. Additionally, an approved Supervisor other than the one listed on your entry may supervise your harvest. If your Supervisor is not currently listed in the online database, contact NCGA for approvals. New Supervisor information may also be emailed to ncyc@ncga.com to include the Supervisor's name, address, business, job title, contact numbers and email address.

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 CED/Loan Manager/ Officer
- (SWCD) Soil & Water Conservation District
- Farm Credit Services Officer
- 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
- Anyone who is retired from one of these positions
  - NCGA Stewardship Action Team members
  - NCGA Membership and Consumer Engagement Action Team
  - NCGA Corn Board members
  - Approved state corn association staff

Supervisor Disqualifications

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

Supervisor Responisibilites Include:

- To be present during harvesting and weighing to signature approve the gross, tare and moisture
- 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 Yield Worksheet.
- Important: Supervisor signatures are required on all weigh tickets as well as the yield 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.
- Supervisor must contact NCGA to report all initial yield results exceeding 325.0000 bu./acre 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 Verfication Photo on the Yield Worksheet.

IMPORTANT

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

If a recheck is performed but was not required, according to the rules based upon the number of supervisors' present and the yield outcome, 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.

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 325.0000 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 - Supervisor is required to contact NCGA to report all initial yield results exceeding 325.0000 bushels per acre and again to report the recheck yield result of the reported plot: 636-733-5512. After business hours and/or weekends a message may be posted listing the grower's name, supervisor's name calling in, and yield results. This information may also be emailed directly to 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 325.0000 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 form 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 from the contest.

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 325 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.
- ❑ 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.
- ❑ If twin row corn is planted, both rows must be shucked back.
- ❑ Photo to capture the base of the stalks being photographed as well as the crop residue on the ground from the first check harvest.
- ❑ Photo to contain one diameter of a broken ear held by a supervisor to show the kernel depth.
- ❑ Straight shot, full-body picture of the two supervisors holding yard stick or a 36-in. length of tape measure at corn level.
- ❑ Supervisors' faces must be visible.
- ❑ Supervisor must count the number of ears shown in the 36-in. measurement and record it on the Yield Worksheet.
- ❑ When reporting the high yield of the first check greater than 325 bu./acre, text photo to 636-675-3562.
- ❑ Submit in the online contest platform as an attachment when submitting the harvest entry.

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 x 20 = 24,200 x 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 moister 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. 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. The supervisor(s) must sign off on the printed moisture reading or the hand- written moisture readings if a printout is not available.

Calculating Yield

(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 x .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

Information Required for Classes A through I NCYC Harvest Entry

- Verify that the state listed is where the contest field is located
- Verify that the class selected matches the field tillage
- Verify the Hybrid Brand and Number
- Harvest Population (plants per acre)?
- Plot Acreage: Owned or Leased and if leased from whom?
- Fertilizer (Actual lbs./acres applied since last crop) – Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P_2O_5) and/or Potash (K_2O)?
- Trace Elements & Manure?
- When was nitrogen fertilizer applied: Fall, Spring Pre-Plant, At Planting, Side Dress & Pre-Tassel?
- Was Starter Fertilizer used?
- How was nitrogen fertilizer applied? Surface, Incorporated, Through Irrigation & how many times?
- Was the field irrigated?
- Irrigation Method – Furrow (Flood), Drip, Sprinkler or Underground Tile?
- Approximately how many inches of irrigated water applied per acre in inches?
- Harvester Make and Model?
- Field Location: County?
- Total acres in contest field?
- Harvest date.
- Was a laser used to measure the rows?
  If yes, were the rows straight and did the field have any slope?
  Verify that the row spacing is correct
- Provide measurements for the acreage harvested (i.e. number of passes as well as length of each pass)
- Verify minimum 1.2500 acres was harvested. If not a minimum 1.2500 acres harvested, the entry cannot be completed
- Provide gross and tare weights and moisture average to determine total bushels harvested
- Upload with Supervisor signature approval an image verification of the row measurements
- Upload with Supervisor signature approval an image of the weigh ticket
- Choose Supervisor present at harvest. Searchable online within the entry contains all current, approved Supervisors. Supervisor listed on the entry may be different than the Supervisor present at harvest.
- Confirm if a recheck is needed. If yes, see page 11 for recheck requirements.

Information Required for Class J NCYC Harvest Entry

The harvest rules for the Nitrogen Management Class are one and the same as all contest plots as detailed on page 15. Additional harvest rules specific to the Nitrogen Management Class only are detailed herein:

Any entrant already participating in the current corn yield class can submit a portion of the field (minimum of 10 acres) for the nitrogen class, or a separate field can be submitted.

- 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 the acceptable cash crops 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)
  - **Soybeans**: Less than 100 lbs./acre total nitrogen applied to previous soybean crop (less than 30 lbs./acre applied after planting).
  - **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.
- 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 to verify recorded and submitted numbers.
- Keep nutrient analysis for all manures and composts and product labels for any biological or foliar feed products applied.

Harvest Recap

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 2023 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, 2023, whichever is the earlier date.

The online harvest entry opens August 17 and will close November 30, 2023 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 2024 Commodity Classic.

Contest results will be released on December 13, 2023. Yield results obtained from plots that are entered into the National Corn 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/ncyc.

Decisions of NCGA's Contest Committee in all matters are final. The NCYC 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, and first, second and third place state winners in classes A through I. Class J 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 2024.

Approved Promotional Activities for Industry:

- Pay entrants NCGA National and Affiliate State annual dues
- Pay entrants NCYC 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 27 national winners and state winners and class J winners at the seed company's discretion. May include immediate family members, operation partners or other individuals with active participation in the NCYC 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 NCYC Committee before promoting to the nation's corn growers. The NCYC Committee reserves the right to disqualify any entry without a refund for violation of these stated rules and non-approved industry promotion activities.

Appendix Class J

NITROGEN MANAGEMENT CLASS OVERVIEW

The Corn Yield Contest Nitrogen Management pilot class will be open to the first 100 entries from the following states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio and Wisconsin. Farmers in the pilot 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.**

PILOT 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 NCYC application or NCYC 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 biological 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). 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 (ncyc@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 manure or compost applications that are not variable rate, a PDF coverage map must be submitted with the application; a geospatial file should be recorded and is to be provided upon request.

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 of nitrogen can be applied for the previous corn crop (crop year); less than 200 lbs. of that can be applied after planting, and no nitrogen can be applied after VT.
- **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 NCYC entries.

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.

Appendix Class J cont.

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 and other documents to verify recorded and submitted numbers.
- Nutrient analysis for all manures and composts and product labels for any 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 broken down by field is acceptable. As stated above, if the farmer purchases products in bulk for the entire operation, application maps 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.

How to enter the CYC Nitrogen Management class:

The nitrogen management class is a separate class from any existing yield contest classes. A farmer already participating in a current corn yield class can submit a portion of the field (minimum of 10 acres) for the nitrogen class or a separate field can be submitted. If the submission is for a portion of a field, application maps for all nitrogen applications that include rate and coverage must be submitted and the 10 acres for the nitrogen efficient class must be clearly marked and appropriate buffer zones used.

Class J FAQ

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 hosphorus. 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.

Why is the class limited to certain states?

We want to be cautious about the additional verification steps needed to ensure a fair competition so we have chosen to limit the pilot class to certain states and a total of 100 participants. This will ensure issues that will certainly arise during the first year of the program can be addressed fairly across the contest. In addition, more research is needed determine the best nitrogen rates and practices across diverse geographies.

I have low organic matter soils that will not provide the mineralization that other soils will, and therefore feel I cannot be competitive in this contest. Why can't NCGA provide different rates for different soils?

After researching different methods of determining nitrogen rates for different soils and geographies, it was decided these methods are not consistent enough to provide a fair playing field that could be verified across a wide geography at this time. NCGA hopes to address this issue in future versions of this competition.

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.*

Supervisor Checklist

*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.

IMPORTANT: Supervisor is required to sign BOTH the weigh ticket and yield calculations worksheet

NO WEIGH WAGONS ALLOWED

Yield Calculation Formula

*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

Yield 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/ncyc

_____
SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE
Initial check

_____
2nd SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE
Recheck