

Lodged corn harvest tips are reviewed

Written by Ron F. Meyer, area CSU Extension agent

With larger than average areas dealing with lodged or downed cornstalks in some Colorado fields due to rootworm issues and/or hail, it's a good time to review steps to take when faced with harvesting significant areas of lodged corn.

The only way to evaluate whether any harvesting aid or technique is helping is to measure harvest losses. Each 3/4-pound ear on the ground per 436 square feet equals a loss of one bushel per acre.

Tips for machine operation to reduce losses include:

—Set gathering chains for more aggressive operation with points opposite each other and relatively closer together. Adjust deck plates over snapping rolls only slightly wider than cornstalks so that they hold stalks but not so narrow that stalks wedge between the plates.

—Operate the head as low as practical without picking up rocks or significant amounts of soil.

For the full article, contact us about subscribing to our e-Edition. 970-854-2811

Holyoke Enterprise October 10, 2013