BECK'S 300 Bushel Attempt – 2009

Location: 300-2 S, 300-3 S, 300-4 S plots
Planted: April 24, 2009
Harvested: September 21, 2009
Population: 36,500 seeds/A.
Soil Type: Genesee Silt Loam
Tillage: Moldboard Plow & S-tine on continuous corn and corn after corn
V-Rip on corn after beans

Herbicide: Pre: 2.3 qts. Bicep II Magnum
1 qt. Princep 4L
Post: 1.67 qts. Lexar

Fertilizer:

Starter Mix:	8.5 gal	10-34-0	
	8.5 gal	28-0-0	35#N
Sidedress:	97 gal	28-0-0	290#N
			301#N

Insecticide: 3.2 oz. Mustang Max

Fungicide: 6 oz. Headline

RAINFALL	
April	7.26 in.
May	4.53 in.
June	5.55 in.
July	2.28 in.
Aug.	3.03 in.
Total	22.65 in.

Purpose: In our attempt to reach 300 bushels per acre, we have tried several different approaches in the past 29 years. In the early years, we increased our populations and applied extremely high rates of fertilizer as well as some micronutrients. In the mid to late 80's, we tried using different tillage methods like v-rip, chisel, and moldboard plow. From 1991 to 2002, we tested zone-till vs. conventional-till.

In 2003, we tested ultra-high populations and twin rows using conventional-till practices. Since 2004, we have compared the following crop rotations: continuous corn, two-year corn/one year soybean, and corn/soybean rotations.

Brand	Harvested Population	Test† Weight	Percent Broken Stalks	Percent Root Lodging	Percent Moisture	Bushels† Per Acre
CONTINUOUS CORN (9TH YEAR)						
BECK 6733HXR™*	35,000	58.6	0.0	0.0	28.6	320.7
BECK 5354HXR™*	35,000	57.6	0.0	0.0	27.1	291.0
BECK 5435HXR™*	34,000	58.4	0.0	0.0	23.9	285.5
BECK 5442VT3	37,000	55.0	0.0	0.0	24.5	279.0
BECK 5454HXR™*	34,500	57.1	0.0	0.0	28.8	276.7
BECK 6363HXR™*	35,000	59.5	0.0	0.0	29.3	269.2
BECK 5716A3	32,000	58.9	0.0	0.0	27.3	261.0
BECK 5779VT3	33,500	55.2	1.5	0.0	25.9	260.8
AVERAGE	34,500	57.5	0.2	0.0	26.9	280.5
CORN AFTER CORN (2ND YEAR)						
BECK 5442VT3	35,500	54.3	0.0	1.4	25.1	293.6
BECK 5779VT3	38,500	55.5	0.0	3.9	25.8	288.7
BECK 5354HXR™*	23,500	57.8	0.0	0.0	28.0	288.4
BECK 6733HXR™*	35,000	58.4	0.0	0.0	28.4	287.2
BECK 5435HXR™*	34,500	57.8	0.0	0.0	23.6	282.9
BECK 6363HXR™*	36,500	59.3	0.0	0.0	29.4	282.4
BECK 5716A3	32,500	54.0	0.0	0.0	27.2	281.8
BECK 5454HXR™*	25,500	57.3	2.0	2.0	29.2	261.7
AVERAGE	32,688	56.8	0.2	0.9	27.1	283.3
CORN AFTER BEANS						
BECK 6733HXR™*	33,000	58.5	0.0	0.0	27.8	297.8
BECK 5442VT3	37,000	55.1	0.0	4.1	26.3	295.7
BECK 5435HXR™*	30,000	58.6	0.0	0.0	24.4	293.2
BECK 5354HXR™*	33,000	57.7	0.0	0.0	26.6	289.9
BECK 5779VT3	34,000	54.5	2.9	0.0	26.3	289.5
BECK 5454HXR™*	35,500	57.1	0.0	0.0	28.4	281.2
BECK 6363HXR™*	37,000	59.3	0.0	0.0	30.5	280.6
BECK 5716A3	31,000	56.2	0.0	0.0	28.7	278.1
AVERAGE	33,813	57.1	0.4	0.5	27.4	288.3

†Bushels per acre and test weight corrected to 15% moisture.
* XL Brand distributed by Beck's Superior Hybrids, Inc.

Summary: Overall we have seen some variability from year to year in how continuous corn compares to first year corn in this particular study. Our average for the past five years would still show an advantage for corn after soybeans. This year, corn after soybeans averaged 5 to 8 bushels per acre more than either of the two corn following corn environments.

BECK 6733HXR™* took first place in all three environments in 2008, and first place in two of the environments in 2009. In 2007, BECK 6733 (non-traited version) claimed the plot's top spot with a yield of 302.9 bushels per acre. This year's win solidifies BECK 6733 genetics as having the highest yield potential in three consecutive years of testing. Overall, Beck's genetics over the past two year's exceeded the previous year's plot average by a significant margin of 30 bushels per acre. Keys to the success of this year's plot were early planting, good stand establishment on most hybrids, and moderate temperatures in July, August and September when rainfall was below average. Also, with the high fertility levels in this highly productive soil, we have not applied any fall fertilizer since October 2005, and relied only on the starter and sidedress nitrogen to feed the crop.

Think about it…
What does it mean to raise 320.7 bushels per acre with a market price of $3.60 per bushel?
Answer: Over $1,154 per acre!!